The Current Sauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 ◆ Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 ◆ Volume 94: Issue 1

In the Mix

Real world experience



Students gain hands-on experience

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His and Hers

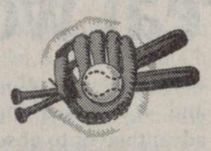
Perspectives on two very different types of movies.



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Weather

Wednesday	91°/69°
Thursday	93°/72°
Friday	93°/69°
Saturday	90°/70°
Sunday	91°/70°
Monday	93°/71°
Tuesday	94°/64°

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Photo by Chris Watts/Current Sauce

Construction on Front Street led to many archaeological finds that predate 1904.

Construction takes toll on Front Street business

Chris Watts
Sauce Reporter

Since the Front Street construction began, Antoon's Riverfront Restaurant has closed for lunch due to lack of business, according to manager Lisa Edwards.

"People don't like interruptions in their daily routines," Edwards said, "and it's affecting our business during the day."

The intersection of Front Street and Washington Street adjacent to Antoon's parking lot is now blocked off and, in compliance with federal preservation law, has been transformed into an archeological site.

According to archeologist Thurston Hahn, III of Coastal Environments, Inc., his team has discovered an older foundation, which he estimates could date back to as early as 1810.

His team also discovered beads, flints, plates, bottles, nails, and bones, which all predate 1904—the year the most recent foundation was laid.

All artifacts belong to the state. Hahn hopes at least some of the artifacts will go on display, but acknowledged the high costs of doing so.

The archeological work is being coordinated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Federal money is involved in the Front Street project, so federal law requires a "cultural resources investigation."

However, construction began prior to the investigation, which caused some concern.

"Our contracts didn't coincide with the construction company. We showed up and there were already artifacts that had been unearthed," Hahn said. According to Hahn, several local archeologists became involved immediately following the construction.

Hahn claims the majority of the artifacts found are related to commercial shops of the 19th century.

"The archeology find is a very positive thing for us because it can be developed into a tourist attraction," Cane River Kitchenware owner Kym Habig said. But according to Habig, Antoon's isn't the only Front Street business suffering from the construction.

"The first six weeks almost killed everybody. I've never had to worry about expiration dates on anything, now I have to order a lot less of everything," Habig said.

In attempts to offset the slow business caused by the construction, 27 downtown businesses are participating in a Historic District Downtown Giveaway, which takes place on the last Friday of every month.

Customers who spend more than $30 at any participating business are entered in a drawing for a $300 shopping spree. The contest began in March and will run through October.

The "Steel Magnolias" 20th Anniversary Celebration will be held on June 14 to raise money to benefit downtown businesses.

Construction has impeded tourism by causing the Tourist Center to close and eliminating access to restrooms. A Cane River Kitchenware customer suggested that the city do a better job with placing detour signs.

"If locals can't figure out how to get where they want to go, how are tourists supposed to?" The customer said.

According to Habig, it's the locals who keep her in business.

"Most people think that these are all just tourist shops, but at least 70 percent of our business is local, and we appreciate it very much," Habig said.



Photo by Chris Watts/Current Sauce

Fences separate the construction area from the shopping area on Front street. This sign directs shoppers to additional stores and asks that they "observe history in the making."

University partners with local counselors to provide extra help

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

Northwestern State has formed a partnership with the Natchitoches Emergency Response Crisis Counselor Team, which will provide students and faculty on campus with more help during an emergency.

"We're trying to be proactive," said Chris Maggio, Dean of Students at the university.

Maggio said the university wants to be prepared for any emergency and to provide for the students with mental health counseling.

In case of an emergency, counselors on the campus will handle the initial crisis response.

"Our primary emphasis is on preventing a tragedy," President Randall Webb said. "But sometimes they just occur."

If the crisis is overwhelming, the university can call the Natchitoches emergency response team and request that local mental health professionals be mobilized to the campus to provide counseling and support for students and faculty.

The Natchitoches Emergency Response Crisis Counselor Team consists of about 30 metal health professionals and clergy members who have signed up to be volunteers in emergencies.

"We hope we never have to use it," Maggio said. "But ... we want to be prepared."

Doyle Bailey, deputy and chaplain for the Natchitoches Sheriff's Department, agreed with Maggio on this point. Although he hopes disaster does not strike, he knows too well that it can.

Bailey represented the city's emergency response team in the agreement and has first-hand experience of dealing with the aftermath of a disaster. Mayor Wayne McCullen asked him to visit Natchitoches shelters housing Hurricane Katrina evacuees and provide them with counsel.

Bailey said he saw the value in the work being done by himself and other counselors and clergy members, but he also called it a "rag-tag organization." It was much harder to pull everything together during the emergency, he said.

"We decided to be ready for it," Bailey said.

Bailey said the counseling volunteers can be on campus by the time the police are able to secure an area for them, which is much faster than trying to find helpers in the midst of a disaster.

He also realizes that hurricanes are not the only worry. School shootings like that at Virginia Tech in 2007 are "not limited to Virginia," Bailey said.

Webb strongly supports effective counseling and said other communities and schools may follow in the university's footsteps.

Representatives from the university, Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department and the emergency response team met Tuesday to formalize the agreement by signing a memorandum of understanding.

"I think it's wonderful," Webb said about the partnership. "I feel privileged that we live in a community that's proactive and looking for ways to do good things for others."



Photos submitted by J. Mark Thompson/Current Sauce

Above: NSU trombone professor J. Mark Thompson and his friend Timothy Howe of Arkansas Tech University pose with a trombonist statue in front of Sichuan Conservatory of Music in Chengdu, China.

Below: Students sit and wait holding traditional Chinese instruments.

For story, see page 2.



Chris Harlan
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June 18, 2008

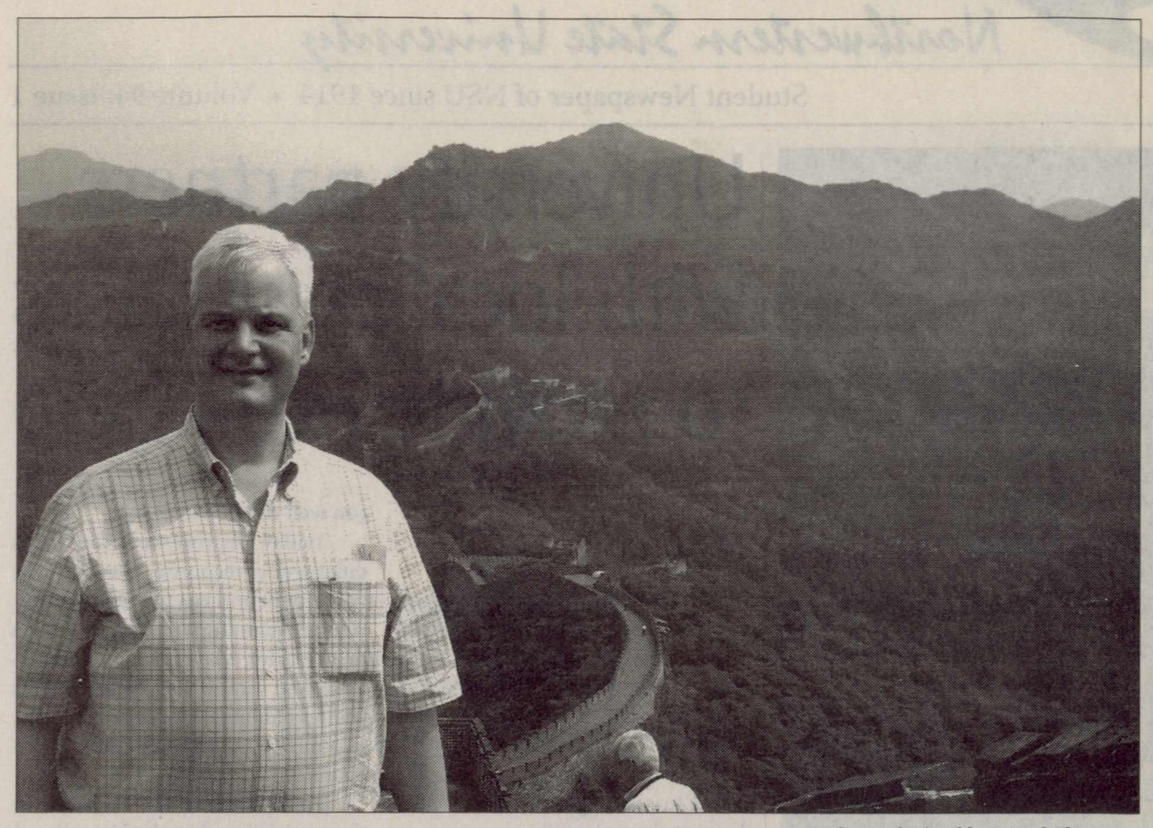


Photo submitted by J. Mark Thompson

NSU professor J. Mark Thompson stands in front of the Great Wall of China during his stay there.

Professor shaken in China

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

J. Mark Thompson, professor of trombone and low brass at Northwestern State University, was teaching in Chengdu, China, when the Wenchuan Earthquake hit in May.

Thompson was invited to teach master classes at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music for a week but was interrupted by the 7.8 earthquake on his first day of class.

Thompson grew up in western Kentucky and experienced a few small earthquakes but nothing of this magnitude. He said the aftershocks of the Wenchuan Earthquake were worse than the earthquakes he felt growing up.

The earthquake left an impression on Thompson. He even remembers the exact time it struck their area -- 2:28 p.m. When it struck he immediately lifted his hands and touched the ceiling to stabilize himself and looked out the window to see the trees shaking like "a reed in the wind."

The professors and students immediately evacuated after the three minutes of the earthquake. They were not able to enter the building again until three days later.

However, this did not stop the professors from teaching. Thompson and his friend from the Des Moine Metro Opera, Timothy Howe, invited their students to take class in the guest house where they were staying.

"It got (the students') minds off the disaster," Thompson said. "They appreciated it."

Thompson said he and Howe were meant to be there to help the students focus on something other than the earthquake and to "get connected to music in a special way."

Bill Brent, director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts at NSU, expects that Thompson will be able to bring what he learned in China to the students in Louisiana.

"Dr. Thompson's research and performances in China, despite the terrible tragedy that occurred while he was there, may ultimately bring students from China to study at Northwestern," Brent said. "Regardless, what he learned while he was there will benefit all of our music students."

During the aftermath, Thompson experience a "moment of real pride" when he saw a United States Air Force plane bringing relief along with the other cargo planes at an airport.

Howe, who teaches at Arkansas Tech University, had been invited last year and asked Thompson if he would want to join him if the opportunity arose again. Thompson agreed, thinking it was a joke. Months later, Howe called to make sure Thompson wanted to go because they had been invited. Thompson then realized it was no joke and jumped on the opportunity.

Thompson had never been to China and called it a "very interesting first trip. He said he would absolutely go back and wouldn't trade his first trip for the world.

The classes lasted only the first week of the trip, but his second and final week in China was spent seeing the sights. He was able to go to Bejing for touring, visit the Great Wall and meet the man who discovered the terracotta warriors.

The Bejing Central Conservatory of Music extended an open invitation to Thompson and Howe to have a similar experience -- but not too similar.

"Not an earthquake," Thompson said quickly.

Thompson was able to apply for and use grants from the university to help pay for his trip and left the day of graduation in May.

Thompson returned to Natchitoches to leave again for eight weeks. He will be performing in the Des Moine Metro Opera for six weeks and then at the Lancaster Festival in Ohio for two.

He has performed at the festival for 11 years and in the opera for two and has enjoyed being a part of them.

"I'm at home when I have the horn in my hand," Thompson said.

For more photos from Thompson's trip to China visit us at **thecurrentsauce.com**

Military families remember meaning of Memorial Day

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

While most students spend Memorial Day hanging by the pool working on their tan and checking out the latest fashion trends at the mall, Ryan Keeton spends his day catching up with old friends and remembering those who didn't make it back from the war.

Keeton is a junior broadcast journalism major and a 14-year veteran of the United States Army. He was deployed to Washington, D.C. three weeks after September 11, 2001, and has seen first hand what terrorists did to our nation's capital.

"Memorial Day takes on a new meaning to me now," Keeton said. "10 years ago it would have been just another day."

Keeton was stationed in Korea, Germany and California and is now stationed at Fort Polk in Leesville with his wife and children. He says that being in the Army "took a hard toll on family life" since he was deployed for so long. His wife, Dori, agreed that their family sacrificed a lot while he was gone.

"Being an Army wife is the hardest job in the Army because women have to learn independence and strength while the men are away," Dori Keeton said. "I am extremely proud of him and what he has done for our country."

Being in a military family has always been the lifestyle for senior journalism major Lauren Rachal. She has lived in four different states and has moved more than 20 times.

While being in a military family has its good and bad parts, Rachal thinks she "would be a completely different person" if she had not "experienced that kind of life."

"I've seen a lot of different places, and it taught me to adapt to change better than most," Rachal said. "I've had to make new friends over and over again my entire life, so I think I'm a pretty independent and outgoing person because of it."

Rachal says that Memorial Day "special holiday" for her family because of their military background. Rachal's grandfather was a Marine and fought in the Vietnam War, her "pawpaw" was in the Army, her father, a Colonel in the Marine Corps., was in Dessert Storm and the war in Iraq. Rachal's brother, who was wounded during the war in Iraq, was sent home and received the Purple Heart for his service in the Marine Corps.

"I know anyone who has a family member in the military can understand the sense of pride we have for what they do for our country," Rachal said. "Memorial Day is a day where we can honor those who have fought and those who continue to fight for what our country stands for."

As for Keeton, he plans to continue to keep up with old friends and fly his American flag every year outside of his house. His advice to those who do not take it seriously is simple.

"Set all your worries and bickering about politics aside and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can live in a free country – their lives," he said.

Students experience 'real world'



Photo by Rayce Brossette/Current Sauce

The screen shows a programming language that Rayce Brossette works with during his internship at State Farm.

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

After spending day after day in a classroom, NSU students finally get their moment in the spotlight as they walk across the stage as a college graduate. But there's always that one lingering question in the back of every graduate's mind – What now?

"I was so ready to be a 'real adult' and get into the 'real world,' but now that it's here I wish that I was back in school," Rashad Smith said.

Smith made his step into the 'real world' in May and has faced the challenges of being a new graduate. As a psychology major, Smith said it has been "extremely difficult" to find a job because of "competition from current graduates, other colleges students, high school students and adults who are currently looking for employment."

"I have been applying to places outside of my major because there is a limited amount of places I can apply for in Natchitoches relating to psychology," Smith said.

However, Kathy Swate has had better luck in finding a job after completing her years at NSU. She now lives in Austin, Texas, and is working at the same job she did her internship with at the Hilton Garden Inn. Swate majored in hospitality, management and tourism and was required to do an internship.

"Life for me now is working and missing all my friends from college," Swate said. "Living in Austin without knowing a lot of people is hard and adds to the challenge."

Internships are required for some majors at Northwestern, and it is something students take advantage of to absorb 'real-world' work experience.

"I think internships prepare you to conduct yourself in a business manner and what the 'real world' will be like when you graduate," senior Kristi George said. "You learn so much more than just going to class and nothing can replace hands-on experience in the field of your choice."

George is a senior journalism major and is doing her internship this summer with Cumulus Broadcasting Center in Shreveport. She learned about the internship position through a friend and is working outside of her concentration.

Senior computer information systems major Rayce Brossette is not required to do an internship but is still spending his summer with seven other NSU students in Bloomington, Illinois, at the State Farm Insurance headquarters.

The experience students get in the 'real world' is something both George and Brossette recommend to all undergraduate students.

"All students should do an internship just to get the feel of working in the 'real world' and to learn from those already working in it," Brossette said. "I've already gotten used to the work hours and not having to worry about going to class every day, so it's going to be tough going back to school in August."

Charlie Brown kicks off NSU summer theater

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

Three-hour rehearsals to attend, costumes to fit, lines to memorize- good grief... The summer cast of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" may not have much of a vacation, but they stuck around for the experience of summer theater.

The play was performed on June 11-14 as dinner theatres in the evenings and June 12-14 for daytime matinees. The last performances are June 18-21 for dinner theaters starting at 6 p.m. and June 19-21 for matinees at 1 p.m. Tickets are $25 for evening shows and $4 for daytime shows. Reservations are required.

"Charlie Brown" director Barry Stoneking, assistant professor of creative and performing arts and the director of dance, said summer theater can be more rigorous than during the semester due to the restricted time. The cast only had three weeks to prepare for "Charlie Brown," compared to five to six weeks like they would for a normal semester performance. The three-week preparation time is closer to how professional theater companies run their shows, so it's is good practice for the students.

"I'm more demanding over the summer," Stoneking said. "It's understood that school comes first during the semesters, but over the summer, we're here to work."

Stoneking described the rehearsals lasting as long as four hours, depending on what needs to be done. Jarrad Baker, who plays Charlie Brown, said practice time varies, depending on when the director tells them to go home.

Other cast members include Emily Bennett as Sally, Katie Peck as Snoopy, Angela Kang as Lucy, Casey Bozenski as Linus and Josiah Kennedy as Schroeder.

Jarrad Baker, senior theater major, is the oldest cast member of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," mostly consisting of up and coming sophomores and freshmen. He said the cast really gives it their all and are very talented.

Stoneking described the play as little scenes, like out of the daily comic. "Charlie Brown" does not have a set plot, but consists of short scenes that target each character.

The play is also very light on props, due to the small budget of summer theater, but the set is the most impressive. Philip Kidd, assistant professor of creative and performing arts, and students from the theater department created an oversized playground for the characters to interact in. Stoneking said he did not want any set changes during the play, so he thought a playground scene would be most fitting.

The jungle gym is the largest part of the set, reaching up to 10 feet. Baker, who plays the lead character, is 6'3, and Kennedy, who plays Schroeder, is 6'4. The set had to be large enough to make them look like children. There is also an oversized slide, monkey bars and a dog house for Snoopy.

Baker said the biggest task of this play was to pretend to be a child, which was hard for him, he said, because he definitely does not look like a child.

Stoneking said he likes to go into an audition blind and chooses cast members based mostly on their talent, but appearance had some to do with it. He said he likes that the cast is diverse, with Charlie Brown played by a black man and Lucy played by an Asian woman.

"For the children, I think it's a really great thing," Stoneking said. "The cast really looks like our population."

Stoneking even asked Baker to pick out his hair so that it makes his head seem larger and rounder, like the actual cartoon.

"Honestly, I think my job is to make them forget about it [my race]," Baker said.

Stoneking could recognize the built in humor of casting Kennedy, the tallest cast member, as Schroeder. Kennedy, sophomore theatre major, described his legs as sticking up higher than the toy piano he played on the floor.

Baker described the biggest task of the play as pretending to be a child, while Kennedy said the fact that the play is performed "in the round" has made it more challenging. "In the round" means that the audience surrounds the set, a little over three quarters, and sees the play from different perspectives.

"It's hard to think outside of that box that you're used to working," Kennedy said about working in the round, "but it's coming together nicely."

While most dinner theaters interact with the audience, like in murder mysteries, "You're a good man, Charlie Brown," was not originally designed for dinner theater. The characters will serve the food, a picnic-themed dinner catered by SODEXHO, and accept tips, but do not enter the crowd during the performance. The only character to break the audience-actor boundary is Snoopy, played by Katie Peck, sophomore theater major.

Peck goes out into the audience for two or three numbers to entertain the crowd. This is Peck's first NSU theater performance, and she said she sees this as a good opportunity to learn about musical theater and that it is a lot of fun.

"You're a good man, Charlie Brown" is open to all ages. Stoneking said they chose this play to perform over the summer in hopes of entertaining the children of the Natchitoches community.

"I hope the community realizes that we got a lot of flack this past semester because of one of the shows we produced that had some strong language in it... but we really try to address all sorts of things in here, that's what good art does," Stoneking said. "So this is really for the children."

Future summer theater productions are "Sylvia," on July 30-August 2 and August 6-9, and "Dog Tales," on July 31-August 2 and August 7-9.

"Sylvia" is a dinner theater production, so reservations are needed. "Sylvia" is about a talking dog and is appropriate for children over the age of 13, for its sophisticated humor. "Dog Tales" is an original play written and directed by Scott Burrell, director of theater, and is intended for children 10 and older.

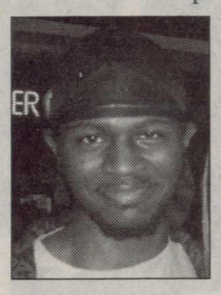
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June 18, 2008

His & Hers

Chick flicks and action films

Kevin Clarkston
Features Reporter

It's summertime, a time when school is out and summer blockbusters rule the silver screen. Most of these blockbusters are usually action films, and the audience for them is usually guys. With the new "Indiana Jones" and "Iron Man" films grossing a combined total of $254 million at the box office on their opening weekends alone, it's clear that someone's turning out to see these fast and furious explosion fests.



So why do guys turn out in droves to see the latest action movie? There are several ways to answer this question.

One reason may be because as guys we are socialized to like them. The first toys for many of us were Army men, G.I. Joe or other action figures (notice how guys' toys are never called dolls), and pretty much every guy I know at some point endured the joy (or agony, depending on who you talk to) of playing competitive team sports.

From an early age, guys are taught that men are supposed to be strong, athletic, aggressive and in control.

Another reason for this phenomenon could be the fantasy and escape that action movies allow. While a chick flick may offer women the chance to let it all out with their girlfriends, action movies allow guys to let out our frustrations and anger in a safe environment.

From jocks to pretty boys to geeks, every one of us at some point has felt powerless about circumstances in our lives. Watching Rambo slaughter a slew of bad guys or John McClane make it out of an impossible scenario and fire off some wisecrack allows us to feel powerful and in control as we live vicariously through them for 90 minutes. A psychologist might say that is another way men bond with one another without getting emotionally attached, since most action flicks are high on adrenaline and low on introspection.

"Watching Rambo slaughter a slew of bad guys ... allows us to feel powerful and in control as we live vicariously through them for 90 minutes.."

~Kevin Clarkston

Of course it could also boil down to good old fashioned peer pressure. You may want to go see the latest My Best Friend's Wedding-Waiting to Exhale-Mean Girls type movie, but you also don't want your friends to clown you mercilessly. So you go watch a bunch of people get blown to bits instead.

In the end the reasons men like action movies are as different as each individual man. Of course this is coming from a guy who just saw "Sex and The City: The Movie" a few days ago, so I know little something about being different.

Kevin Clarkston is a senior journalism major. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the entire Sauce staff or those of the university.

Chick flicks and action films

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

The summer movies of 2008 left a bit to be desired.



"Iron Man" was excellent and "Prince Caspian" was everything I expected it to be, but "Made of Honor" was made of a plaid, womanizing material posing as honor. After two hours of yawning, I wondered if the summer movie dry spell would pick up.

I remember when I saw the "Sex And The City" movie trailer for the first time. I heard the music and almost started jumping with joy in my seat – a "Sex and the City" movie? Really? May 30 seemed far away, but I was patient. I refused to do research on the movie or search for previews and spoilers because I wanted to be thrilled and surprised. All I knew for sure was that it was going to be fabulous.

I settled into my chair with a hopeful attitude and sat through dreadfully repetitive previews for "Mamma Mia." For a split second I thought I might have made a mistake, but then I remembered the many boyfriends, breakups and Blahniks the girls had gone through to get this far. How could "Sex and the City" go wrong?

When I heard the show's theme song, I felt a wave of exhilaration like I was at the top of a roller coaster. I was so happy – and then, out of nowhere, Fergie started whining about labels and love. After that, I remembered that I was no longer seated comfortably in my living room, but in a theater, where many great TV legends came to die.

"'Made of Honor' was made of a plaid, womanizing material posing as honor."

~Kelli Fontenot

Sure, it was kind of cool to see Charlotte, Samantha, Miranda and Carrie relatively happy at the end of the film, but the movie was altogether too bland and depressing. Don't get me wrong. I enjoy a sad movie now and then – "Pay It Forward," "Saving Private Ryan" – but I expected more out of "Sex and the City." Half of the movie consists of Carrie lying in bed without speaking or eating at all.

The HBO series started out telling the stories of single women who didn't necessarily believe that marriage was paramount, but the movie essentially ended with all of the girls "settling down" in their own way. I will always enjoy the show and it was fun to see some of my favorite characters on the big screen, but the movie just didn't do it for me.

There are more movies to come, though. "Get Smart" seems like the kind of remake that won't make everyone in the audience cringe and "Hellboy II" looks fantastic. Everyone will be on edge for "The Dark Knight," and I'll probably be sitting right next to Front Row Joe.

It's amazing that no matter how many awful movies I sit through during the summer, I always end up first in line to buy my ticket. "I couldn't help but wonder" – when will I learn my lesson?

Kelli Fontenot is a senior journalism major. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the Sauce staff or university.

Student flies south for summer months

Kera Simon
Guest Columnist



After I moved out of my parents' house down south, I thought I had left for good. Granted- I did go home every other weekend at first and have not had an excuse important enough to stay over the winter break, but I've finally had to come back-- for my last college summer now as a senior-- to share a house with my parents as what is known now as a "boomerang kid."

According to many media circuits, the term "boomerang kids" refers to those young adults who venture out into the real world of college, work or marriage only to wind up back in their parents' houses. I'm going through a "boomerang kid" phase and may have to pick the phase back up when I graduate from college.

Let me explain my situation. I used to work as a cashier, so the two summers before I stayed in Natchitoches. I lived off campus and really enjoyed Natchitoches with less people, which mostly meant I could get my "Hot and Spicy McChicken" in less than 30 minutes, unlike when school is in-- and it would take 30 minutes just to cross the bridge. I was also able to spend some time on Cane River.

But this summer is different. I've had to come back to my parents' house because my internship is only 30 minutes away in Lafayette. I've come to understand the true pros and cons of moving back home.

Pros- Obviously, it's cheaper to live at your parents' house. I eat the food, and they give me money to buy more food to replenish the cabinets. I do not have to worry about paying any kind of additional rent, like along with the rent for my place in Natchitoches, because there's always a free bed waiting for me at my parents' house. Sure, my stay here would be more enjoyable if there weren't so many boxes in my room and my mom's winter wardrobe wasn't in my closet, but beggars can't be choosers.

Cons- There is only one TV in my house... I'm sure you see where this is going. I am always the last one to get the remote. Now, I've gotten out of the habit of watching TV. My time is better off spent on Facebook or reading my pile of unread magazines I collected over the past two semesters, but it would be nice to have some kind of control of the big screen- eh?

Another problem is that I've gotten out of the habit of letting people know where I am at all times. I think to text my boyfriend before I think to call my mom when I decide to go somewhere. I'll eventually get a semi-panicked/concerned/mad voicemail telling me to call my mother... now.

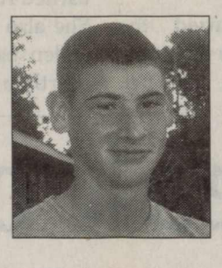
The best part about living with my family over the summer is that I get to re-learn my family dynamics. I forgot a lot of little habits than make my family, well, unique.

So while as a "boomerang kid" I now have to help clean this house, something which I despised growing up, it's nice to know that I can always come home.

Memorial Day deserves reverence

David Royal
Senior Staff Reporter

Another Memorial Day has recently come and passed, and American citizens took full advantage of the annual holiday. I would be willing to bet, however, that most Americans did not dedicate a substantial amount of time or thought to anything but relaxation or recreation.



People seem to forget that the purpose of Memorial Day is to honor the men and women who have died in military service.

Instead, people simply see a three-day weekend full of barbequing, sports and friends. Yes, I do believe those things are important, but at the same time I wonder when Americans do actually take the time to truly recognize those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Twenty or thirty years ago, Americans' Memorial Day plans were much different than they are now. At one time, some of the common sights throughout the cities in America on Memorial Day included numerous American flags being flown at half-staff, graves of fallen soldiers carefully decorated and even parades to honor the dead. Today, however, the only people who decorate graves are the families who have had a loved one die, and it seems like people would rather check out the "Memorial Day Weekend Sale" at Sears than a local parade.

In other countries, people's priorities seem to be arranged a little differently. For example, Israeli citizens recognize Yom Hazikaron, which translates into Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is similar to our Memorial Day, but one major difference is that Israeli citizens actually take the holiday seriously. Throughout the nation of Israel, air-raid sirens sound at 10:00 a.m. on Remembrance Day, and Israelis stand at attention for two minutes to give respect to those who have died for their country.

Not just a few Israeli citizens participate either. The entire population of Israel stops whatever they are doing—even traffic on major highways—to pay tribute. Additionally, Israel's government closes all places of entertainment for the day.

Now, I am not saying we should adopt all aspects of Israel's Remembrance Day, but I am pointing out that Americans have a lack of reverence when it comes to those who have died for us, and even the veterans who are still alive.

Still, there are some people in our nation, however, that really go the extra mile to express their gratitude for our fallen soldiers. The 1,200 soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division not only place an American flag at each of Arlington National Cemetery's 290,000-plus graves, but also patrol 24 hours a day for the entire Memorial Day weekend to ensure that none of the flags fall to the ground. If that is not dedication, then I do not know what is.

Although I am not a fan, I agree with Barack Obama's statement that our patriots who were willing to die for our nation were "shining examples of what's best about America," and that Memorial Day should be a "reminder of our obligation as Americans to serve our fallen heroes as well as they served us."

Next Memorial Day, I believe that if we could all just take a moment to genuinely recognize the lives that have been taken for our country, then I believe the families of those who have died would at least feel a little more ensured that their loved one did not die in vain, which is all we can ask for.

E-mail any comments or letters to the editor to
thecurrentsauce.com

Yearbook distribution

June 30

July 10

July 21

108 Kyser Hall

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

The Current Sauce

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Steroids: Not for everyone

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor



When I sit back and look at my 21 years of watching baseball, I realize that I have seen a lot of history. I have seen the single season home run record broken twice, the career home run record broken, the Red Sox winning two World Championships, and there are so many more like Cal Ripken, Jr., playing in 2,632 straight games. Okay, I haven't seen all of Ripken's games but I did see the final 600 or so, and the list just goes on and on.

Not only I have seen the good but I have seen the bad as well: with the strike in 1994, the 2002 All-Star game ending in a 7-7 tie, and what is now known as the "Steroids Era of Baseball."

Now, I know what you're thinking, "Not another story on steroids," and my rebuttal to that is "well sort of." With all these steroids running rampant in Major League Baseball, I feel it has brought forth some of the dirty players but has damaged the clean players.

The person I had in mind is Ken Griffey, Jr., and the reason I bring him up is because he hit his 600th career home run on June 9. He is only the sixth person in Major League history to do so, and the first thought that popped into my head was steroids. And to be honest with you, I had to slap myself for thinking that.

To me, there are three key stages a player has to cross for it to be official that you're not taking steroids, and if you are, you're hiding it very well.

Stage 1: The eye test: For those of you who don't know what the eye test is, it's simple. Look at a player when he started his career and see how quickly his muscles have developed.

Griffey Jr. has been the same size his entire career. He has never been big by any stretch of the imagination. He has stayed relatively close to the same size, except for the fact he looks like he has had too many cheeseburgers now a days. So he passes that.

Stage 2: Consistency: As far as Griffey Jr. is concerned in a word, Yes. For the first 12 years he was in the league he hit 438 home runs, averaging 36.5 per season.

Just to stack those stats against the greats in their first 12 seasons, Babe Ruth averaged 25.75, Hank Aaron 31.16, and the current home run king Barry Bonds 31.16. So, that says he has been consistent.

Stage 3: The biggest factor is probably the actual steroids drug testing. According to ESPN.com, Ken Griffey, Jr. to date has not failed any drug screens, tests, or anything else that checks for steroids. It does not say how many tests he has taken. He passes the third and final stage.

I just want to add that steroids are the worst thing that has happened to baseball since the Black Sox scandal of 1919.

All I ask is when people like Griffey Jr. pass such prestigious marks as 600 home runs and so forth, keep these stages in mind; don't assume steroids from the beginning. Since Ken Griffey Jr. passes all three stages, he has 600 legitimate home runs until someone proves me wrong.



Photo by Gary Hardamon

Cary Bruno of the Lady Demons softball team reaches for the ball during a game this summer.

Bruno shines as student, athlete

Adam Jonson
Sauce Reporter

Northwestern State softball standout Cary Bruno added another accolade to her list on Wednesday as she was named the 2008 Capital One Southland Conference Student-Athlete of the Year while Brittany Card and Amanda Jameson also earned Academic All-SLC honors.

Bruno, a junior outfielder, was recently named the 2008 Steven McCarty Citizenship Award winner. She boasts a 3.56 grade point average in business administration. In addition, she is the chair of the Northwestern State Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and represented the Demons at the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Leadership Conference last year.

The Pearland, Texas native has volunteered at the local D.O.V.E.S. chapter that supports battered women and volunteered with the Northwestern State Baptist Collegiate Ministries team that helped cleanup Covington, La., following Hurricane Katrina.

Sophomore Amanda Jameson notched first team Academic All-SLC honors with a 3.67 GPA in exercise science. The Burleson, Texas native led the 2008 Demon squad with 22 RBI and three home runs.

Junior Brittany Card, a Fort Worth, Texas native, added second team Academic All-SLC honors after earning a 3.59 GPA in biology. She ranked second on the team this season with 24 runs scored and was a perfect four-for-four in stolen bases.

Bruno also organized the Northwestern State athletics community service project last fall, 'Operation Shoebox,' which collected items as holiday gifts for underprivileged children overseas. This spring she took part in the 'Knock Out Hunger' food drive and was a member of the Demons' Dixie Youth Softball Clinic, providing free instructions to young girls.

Bruno qualified for the Dean's List during the spring 2006, spring 2007, fall 2007 and spring 2008 semesters and qualified for the Honor Roll during the Fall 2006 semester. She was also a member of the Southland Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll during the spring 2006 and spring 2007 semesters.

In 2008, Bruno led the Demons with a .302 batting average and earned All-SLC third-team honors. She also topped the team with 18 stolen bases, a mark that ranked fourth in the SLC this season.

Demon receives honor from ESPN

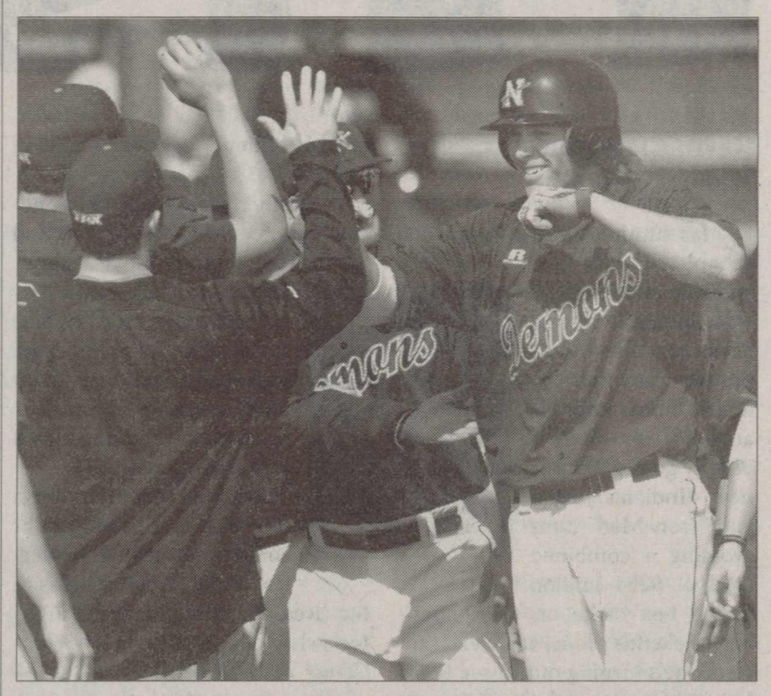


Photo by Gary Hardamon

Mike Jaworski plays first base for the Demon baseball team.

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Senior first baseman Mike Jaworski was named to the 2008 ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Team, earning second-team honor in the university division released by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Jaworski joins an elite list of Demon baseball players.

Jaworski joins Bobby Barbier (2004), Terry Joseph (1993 and 1995), and Ryan Anholt (1999) as the only NSU baseball players named to any Academic All-America team.

This is the third Academic All-America honor for an NSU student-athlete since 2004 and twelfth overall. Jaworski, a graduate student from Houston, joins players from Florida State, Notre Dame, Georgia, Kentucky, St John's, and Arizona State.

He is the only player from Louisiana and the lone Southland Conference representative on any of the three teams. He was placed on the national ballot after he earned first team Academic-All District honors.

"This is just a tremendous honor for Mike," said head Coach J.P. Davis. "He truly exemplifies what a student-athlete should be. On the field and in the classroom, he gives it everything he has."

Before starting graduate school, Jaworski earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in the spring of 2007. Jawroski currently has a 3.81 grade point average.

The Houston native led the Demons to a second place finish in the Southland Conference Eastern Division (17-12) and a 28-28 overall record. The Demons had a legitimate shot at winning the Eastern Division title until the final two games of the season.

Jaworski earned Louisville Slugger Hitter of the Week honors in April after blasting five home runs in five games, including a school record three four-baggers in a game against Texas-San Antonio on April 12. He also earned SLC Hitter of the Week and the Louisiana Sports Writers Association Hitter of the Week twice this season.

"This is a great honor for Mike, who has represented the NSU baseball program with a high level of integrity on all levels," said NSU Director of Athletics Greg Burke. "I am very happy for him and look on this as a well-deserved postscript to an outstanding season."

Athletes break own records at NSU

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Chad Leath's 400 meter hurdles school record and Trecey Rew's school record for discus were broken at the NCAA Mideast Regional Track and Field Championships. The only thing is, they broke their own records.

Leath jumped to a 50.53 time, after a come-from-behind win over second-fastest qualifier, Lee Moore of Ole Miss (50.64).

Only Auburn's Rueben McCoy (48.86) has a faster time than Leath among the Mideast Regional finalists. Leath's time is the 14th-fastest collegiate mark this season.



Leath clocked a time of 51.56 at the NSU Invitational April 12th, breaking a 15-year-old school record. He improved his time nearly a whole second at the Southland Conference Championships, marking a time of 50.63.

The top five finishers in the Mideast Regionals automatically advanced to the NCAA Championships.

The Southland Conference women's discus champion, Trecey Rew, added to her own school record.

Rew finished eighth in the women's discus with a 164-6 throw, improving by nearly a foot and a half.

In the men's javelin competition, Sam Norton finished 20th. The senior fouled on his first two attempts.

His last attempt landed 187-9, nearly 20 feet behind his season's best.

Lady Demon sophomore long jumper Jessica Tuck finished two feet behind her season's best 19-11 in Friday's qualifying round and failed to advance to the finals.

Tuck has been bothered by torn cartilage in her knee.



Photo by Gary Hardamon

Trecey Rew recently broke her own school record for the discus by almost a foot and half.

For more photos visit us online @
www.thecurrentsauce.com

The Current Sauce
Northwestern State University
Thursday, July 31, 2008 ◆ Natchitoches, Louisiana
Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 ◆ Volume 94: Issue 2

In the Mix

New kind of graduate

Adult learners complete their degrees.

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Wise versus naive

Summer jobs mean different things to different people.



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Team player

Lady Demons host a high school team camp.



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Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Weather

Thursday 96°/74°

Friday 95°/74°

Saturday 98°/73°

Sunday 102°/73°

Monday 99°/72°

Tuesday 101°/73°

Wednesday 100°/73°

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Dam Run: A local tradition

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

What started as just a casual ride to the South Dam in celebration of Independence Day about 18 years ago morphed into a star-spangled boat decoration contest then into a giant water balloon fight.

It first began with a few friends and has grown into a more than 50 boat dash down Cane River to float from boat to boat and share good food, conversation and plenty of water.

Steve Wiggins, head of the Miller beer distribution of Natchitoches, is one of the Founding Fathers of what is now known as the Dam Run, taking place every year around the Fourth of July.

Wiggins said it used to take forever to get to the South Dam, at least five hours. Back when boats had only 40 or 50 horse power engines, they would cruise along all day.

Now people have more "fancy boats," with 90 to 200 horse power, taking less time to get to the actual dam and more time just to float and enjoy the big party.

The three hour stretch starts at mile marker 48 at noon with a fireworks launch off of Wiggins' dock.

The Dam Run, which started in 1990, is usually planned for the weekend before the 4th of July. Since the 4th fell on a Friday this year, they decided to have it then.

One of the biggest traditions involving the Dam Run is the "touching of the dam." Wiggins said those true Dam Runners must touch their boats to the South Dam for it to count. That's the whole point of it, he said.



Photo by Kera Simon/Current Sauce

More than 50 boats float and relax on Cane River during the Dam Run on the Fourth of July.

Not everyone knows of this tradition, but the hard-core traditionalists insist that it's a must.

The popularity of the annual Dam Run has spread strictly by word-of-mouth.

Friends would tell friends how much fun they had, and so the numbers continued to rise. The biggest Dam Run to date was last year with about 60 boats.

This year there were a little less – about 50 boats all together – but Wiggins attributed that to the fact it was held on a Friday instead of the usual Saturday.

"I really hope it doesn't grow more than it already has," Wiggins said. "As long as it doesn't get out of control and people just take it easy, we all have a good time."

The Wildlife and Fisheries Cane River patrol has been on duty for the Dam Run every year, getting a little upset about the event. Wiggins said they more or less keep people in line during the Dam Run.

"They really haven't harassed us," Wiggins said. "They're there trying to educate people of the rules and keep them safe."

People do not know the rules sometimes, and Wiggins said that even he did not know that there was no swimming allowed in no-wake zones, which was the biggest complaint of the patrol last year.

This year, the Dam Run boats were taking up both sides of the river – not making room for opposing traffic.

An adjustment the Cane River patrol made for this year's Dam Run was to ban the use of water balloons.

The water balloons started about six or seven years ago. Wiggins is not sure who started it, but he said people started bringing them to defend themselves against the other boats – and thus the water balloon fight began.

Over the years, more and more water balloons would be left in the river. Even though they are biodegradable, the litter was obvious. The Cane River patrol told Wiggins that the balloons were a threat to the fish. Some people also started filling balloons with ice or other liquids besides water that could damage boats, so banning them seemed the right choice.

All that Wiggins had to do was tell his friends to not bring water balloons, and the word spread.

Even though there were no water balloons, people still found ways to soak each other. Water guns, pumps and even a three-gallon bucket could be found on the river on that day, but Wiggins had the ultimate set-up.

He had two kegs filled with water, added 60 pounds of pressure and was able to pump out a continuous stream of ice-cold water onto his unsuspecting victims.

There's an unspoken understanding between participants in the Dam Run. Those who want to take part in the water fight go to the front, while those who don't want to get wet take their time in the back.

People respect those who are not armed with water-defenses so not to drench the unwilling – that way everyone is able to enjoy the ride.

Once people get to the end – after touching the dam with their boats, of course – they anchor their boats and get in the river, swimming to each others' boats and making new friends during the annual event.

"We just do it and if other people come along, that's good," Wiggins said. "It's our way to celebrate the Fourth and have a good time."

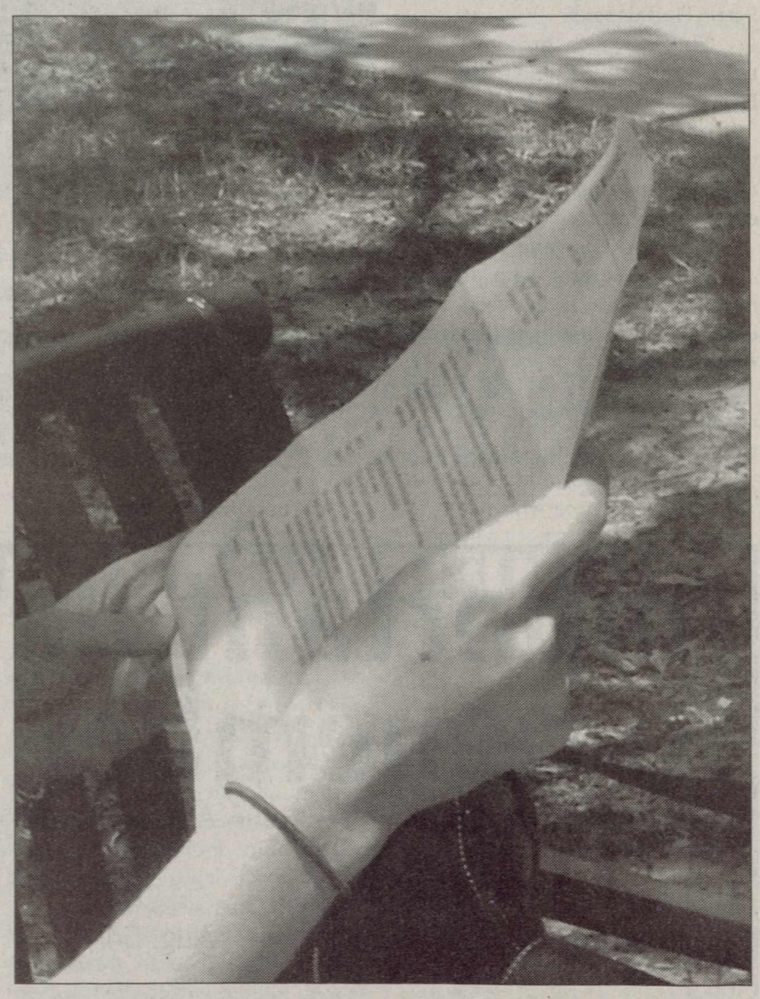
Students slightly shaken by mistaken letters



Photos by Leigh Gentry/Current Sauce

Right: Senior family and consumer sciences major Kacy Brown reads her letter from the Office of Financial Aid.

Left: The letter stated that Brown was no longer a student at NSU and was leaving the university. She received the financial aid letter by mistake and was not the only one.



Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

A couple of hundred NSU students received a letter by mistake from the Office of Financial Aid stating they were leaving the university, according to Misti Adams, director of student financial aid.

These letters are necessary for those students who actually are leaving the university. The Office of Financial Aid at NSU is required by federal law to notify students when they are no longer enrolled at the university because those students must complete an exit interview with the school, Adams said.

Adams said the office requested information on the students who were not registered for either the summer or fall 2008 sessions.

Those who were enrolled were to excluded from this computer search for students, but they actually were accidentally included, Adams said.

The problem could have been a computer glitch or an oversight, Adams said.

"Mistakes happen," Adams said.

Students don't seem to have taken the mistake too badly.

Senior family and consumer science major Kacy Brown was one of the students who received a letter by mistake.

Brown said she received her letter around mid-June and assumed it related to the summer class she had recently dropped, so she didn't think it was a big deal.

However, the letter mentioned that Brown was leaving the university, which she said confused her. She checked her registration status and schedule online and saw she was still enrolled for the fall, and she left it at that.

Brown's husband and senior hospitality, management and tourism major Scott Brown received a similar letter from student financial aid.

He had heard from others that several students had gotten a letter by mistake, so he went to financial aid to check on his status. Those at the office told Scott it was nothing.

Adams said the letters went out to the students before the financial aid office noticed the mistake.

As soon as the office found out, the staff identified students who had been sent the letter by mistake and then sent out correction letters, Adams said. She said the office sent out a couple of hundred correction letters for all NSU campuses.

Adams does not foresee any trouble relating to this incident.

"It is behind us," Adams said. "Everything should be squared away."

Chris Harlan
Life Editor
cgharlan@gmail.com
July 31, 2008



Photo by Leigh Gentry/Current Sauce

The Wellness Recreation and Activities Center hosted local children for the Fun and Fitness Camp.

WRAC offers alternative to lazy summer activities

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor

With summer comes summer camps, and NSU's Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center (WRAC) hosted their own summer camp, which began July 14.

The WRAC is hosting the NSU Fun and Fitness camp for the third year in a row.

The Fun and Fitness camp started on July 14 and ran through July 25.

Children attending had the choice of participating in one or both five-day sessions.

The camp is not new to NSU, but this is the third year it's been held at the WRAC, facility director Patric DuBois said.

Children ages five to 11 attended the camp Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jason Stelly, the director of intramurals at NSU, is also in charge of the camp, organizing the workers and activities for the children.

The activities rane from arts and crafts to sports, with a snack time somewhere in between. Student workers will be helping Stelly run the camp.

Parents from all over the community bring their children to attend the Fun and Fitness camp.

Special accommodations can be made by anyone who needs to drop their children off early or pick them up late.

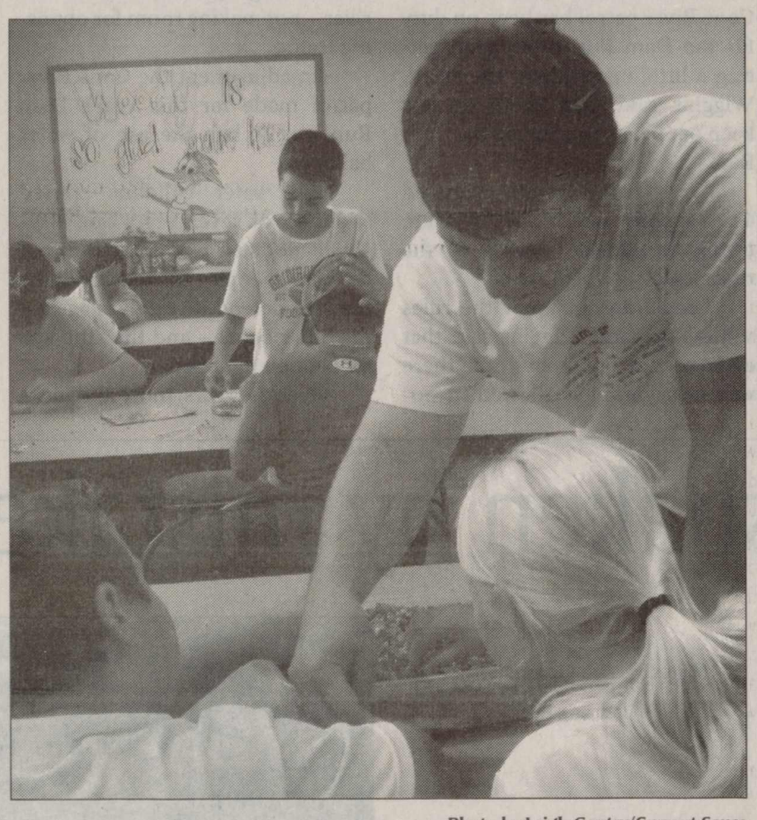


Photo by Leigh Gentry/Current Sauce

Senior social work major Joshua Docter assists students during craft time of the WRAC's Fun and Fitness camp.

The Fun and Fitness camp has been at NSU for years but was moved to the WRAC three years ago.

The building provides plenty of room to host the camp, but it keeps the children from getting too hot – a danger that exists in outdoor camps.

The Fun and Fitness camp has no shortage of children signed up to participate.

Online degree program turns dreams into reality at NSU

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

The dream of walking across a stage and tossing a cap will become a reality for 15 more students this December—students who never thought it possible.

"If it wasn't for the CALL program I'd still be wondering if I would ever be able to finish college," Paul Kennedy said.

The Continuum for All Louisiana Learners (CALL) program is a partner with university college in which all classes are online. The program began spring 2007, and 14 adult learners became the first CALL graduates in May 2008. The next 15 graduates will claim their diplomas this December, and Kennedy will be one of them.

Kennedy started college in 1995 and had not finished by 2001 when he got offered "one of those jobs you just don't turn down." Although he enjoyed his job as a software engineer, Kennedy said he always regretted his decision to leave school.

"It's still a decision that sometimes I wish I'd gone the other way," Kennedy said.

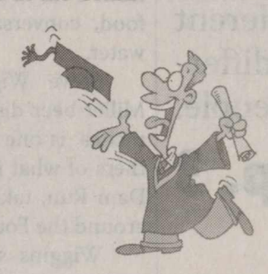
He started college at Louisiana State University but later moved to University of Louisiana at Lafayette to be closer to his family. He thought about going back to finish his degree, but it just was not possible to fit school into his work schedule.

"It wasn't an option," he said.

However, the CALL program is different. Coordinator of adult education initiatives Carl Henry said the program is flexible and convenient because the faculty realize many of the adult learners are working mothers and fathers. The students take a prior learning assessment and are able to transfer credits to NSU, Henry said.

Kennedy had only nine hours left to complete his degree, but the hindrance lied in the prerequisites. He would have had to go to school another year, taking two classes one semester and only one class the next, he said.

Kennedy enrolled in the CALL program in fall 2007 and will finish summer 2008. He will graduate and walk across the stage at NSU in fall 2008, which is making him slightly nervous.



The last time he did that was his high school graduation 13 years ago. He is also a little anxious about seeing the NSU campus. Since the CALL program consists of only online classes, Kennedy has never had to make the drive to Natchitoches to earn his credits.

"I will step on the campus of the school I'm graduating from the day I graduate," Kennedy said.

However, Kennedy said he wouldn't change it for the world, and now he can tell his kids one day they have to graduate from college because he did—a thought he said contributed to his decision to finish his degree.

The CALL program offers degree programs in criminal justice, general studies, business administration, radiologic technology, nursing, health and human performance, psychology, art and education.

The programs range from associate to master degrees and also include add-on certifications.

It offers four-, eight- and 16-week courses online, which students can mix and match, and all classes are taught by NSU professors. To be in the program, adult learners must be at least three years out of high school or have over 60 hours of college credit. These requirements keep it geared to mostly adult learners, Henry said.

The program had about 160 students in the fall and about 200 in the spring, and Henry said the program is still growing.

This program is not just for adult learners. It is also for Louisiana. Henry said the program will help the state get an educated workplace and keep people from bad-mouthing Louisiana.

Henry said there are more than half a million adult learners in the state with 60 hours or better and no degree, and the CALL program is trying to change that statistic.

"So far, so good," Henry said when asked about the program's progress.

Loans pay for more than tuition

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

College students know as much as anyone that school costs money—money that many of them do not have. That is why banks and colleges offer student loans, and NSU is among them.

NSU offers three types of student loans and has quite a few takers for them.

Stafford subsidized loans helped 4,393 NSU students pay for university expenses in 2007, the most recent statistics available.

More than 3,800 students received Stafford unsubsidized loans, and 212 students received Perkins loans, according to the 2007 NSU Factbook.

It is not unheard of to use student loans to get through college, and NSU students have found that there is more to paying for college than just tuition.

Bryant Weldon, senior psychology major, uses loans to pay for other standard living expenses such as rent and food.

"Most of it's used for food because I really don't know how to cook anything," Weldon said.

Without loans, the money would have to come either from his family or from his paycheck, which is currently nonexistent.

"I never would've been able to be in Scholars, have a job and be in band," he said.

Weldon also said that he would not be able to maintain his grades and keep enough hours at a job to pay for his expenses.

A job would also keep him from having a life outside of school and work, he said.

"I'd be one of those people who doesn't do anything," Weldon said. This would be completely different from his life that is filled with band activities and homework.

His parents also wanted Weldon to get loans for school to build up his credit, which will help him down the road.

Cory Stephens, senior general studies major, used a $3000 student loan to pay for an atypical summer course.

Stephens went to Costa Rica for a hospitality, management and tourism (HMT) course last summer with a group of NSU students.

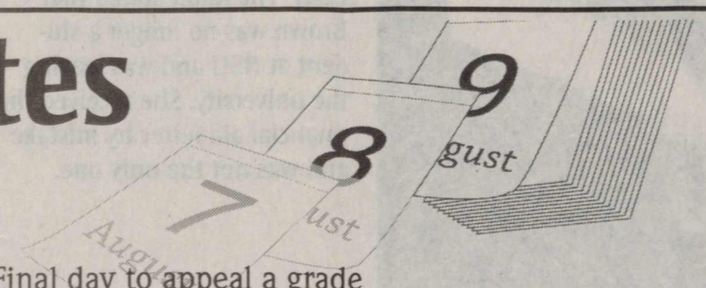
His loan paid the tuition, travel expenses and the extra costs of the trip, like meals and activities.

Stephens spent three weeks in Costa Rica, where he lived with host families, attended Spanish classes and participated in adventure activities such as white water rafting and zip-cording through the rainforest canopy.

His student loan made the trip possible because he would not have gone otherwise, even though he loves to travel.

"Traveling's really hard to do, but it's the most beneficial," Stephens said.

Important dates to remember



Resident Halls open	Aug. 23	Final day to appeal a grade from Spring 2008	Sept. 9
Last day to resign from all classes with 100% refund	Aug. 24	Last day to resign from all classes with 50% refund	Sept. 9
First day of classes	Aug. 25	Final day for undergraduate to apply for Spring 2009 graduation	Sept. 12
Fee payment, Prather Coliseum	Aug. 25- 28	Final day for graduate to apply for Fall 2008 graduation	Sept. 12
Labor Day	Sept. 1	Fall Break	Oct. 6-7
Last day to resign from all classes with 75% refund	Sept. 3	Mid-term grades due on Faculty web	Oct. 19
Final day to register, add/drop courses and make section changed	Sept. 3		

Writing fiend? Photographer extraodinaire? Interested?
Come to our fall meetings in 225 Kyser Hall or e-mail us at thecurrentsauce@gmail.com.

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com
July 31, 2008

Senior vs Sophomore

Perspectives on summer jobs

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

In my 21 years of life so far, I've had exactly three "real" jobs—real as in not babysitting when I was 13—and each one served a different purpose.



That wonderful skill of babysitting allowed me to transform from a high school senior into a full-fledged daycare teacher for a bunch of two-year-olds.

I used that job to pay for my prom dress and stuff for my dorm room. I didn't really have any bills to pay, so I pretty much just used it for Taco Bell once I moved up here.

That summer job also taught me that I didn't want to have kids for a very long time. The best birth control is me versus eight two-year-olds.

Next I became a waitress at my hometown's one and only Mexican restaurant for my first summer home from college. I still work there when I go home—summer, Christmas break and even some three-day weekends. Tips are great.

I've been very blessed to not have to pay for my car or cell phone, but I have had to pay for food since I had moved out of Mom's house.

Tips from Casa Olé helped me eat for the next couple of years of college, something for which I am very grateful. That job also kept electricity in my apartment sophomore year—always a good thing.

Although I do plan to return to good old Casa Olé next break, I did something a little different this summer. I completed an internship required for my major with a job as a reporter for the Alexandria "Town Talk."

This job was so different than daycare or waiting tables. It wasn't just to pay the bills.

Granted it did help in that aspect, considering I have to pay more bills now and am getting married in four months. My responsibilities have changed a bit since high school, so my summer jobs have had to change, too.

> *"But this summer job was more than just a prom dress or the water bill."*
> ~Leigh Gentry

But this summer job was more than just a prom dress or the water bill. Not only did it give me three credit hours for school, but it also taught me a lot about what I'm going to be doing after graduation in just 10 short months—wow, scary.

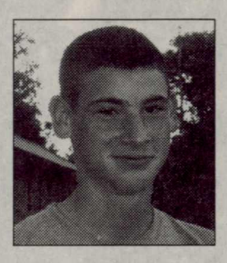
I'm going out into the big, bad world soon, so I better know if I like what I'm going to be doing for the rest of my life.

Guess what. I do.

Leigh Gentry is a senior journalism major. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the Sauce staff or university.

David Royal
News Editor

Not too long ago, my routine during my summer break included waking up at whatever hour suited me, lounging around the house watching television, and eventually getting dressed to hang out with my friends.



I can now honestly say that I took those days for granted.

When I turned sixteen and was given the keys to my car, I was also given more responsibility, which unfortunately included having to get a job.

Additionally now that I have recently finished my first year of college, the only thing that has changed is that I have been given even more responsibility.

Now, my daily routine contrasts greatly to the one I used to have growing up. For six days a week, I am awakened by my alarm and I drag myself to work, where I no longer dictate how I will spend my day.

I am not alone, however. This summer, I was among millions of other college students across the nation who searched for summer jobs.

This summer I managed to obtain my old high school job at the glamorous fast-food industry of Burger King.

Although I am not exactly having it my way here at Burger King, my employer is giving me good hours and adequate pay, and I believe that is about all I can ask for as a measly college student with little work experience.

> *"Although I am not exactly having it my way here at Burger King, my employer is giving me good hours and adequate pay..."*
> ~David Royal

The work may not be desirable and there are times when I do just feel like quitting, but every other Wednesday when I receive my check I am reminded why I should stick with the job.

I have quickly learned that I should simply grit my teeth and take full advantage of this summer break to make as much money as possible because I know that once the fall semester begins my time for a job will be extremely limited.

Unfortunately with summer half-way complete, I know that my time of profit will soon come to an end.

I guess, however, if I look at it on the other hand, I still have a few more weeks to make a lot of money, which actually sounds a lot better than sitting at home all day watching re-runs and talk-shows.

David Royal is a sophomore journalism major. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the Sauce staff or university.

Celebrity news disorder sickens student to core

Kera Simon
Guest Columnist

I am ecstatic that Angelina Jolie had her twins. Two healthy children were born in France after she was in the hospital for two weeks.



I'm not happy because I'm an Angelina Jolie fan, because truth be told — I'm not. I'm not happy because I have an overall concern for pregnant celebrities — their struggles are shown to be the same as, gasp, us normal people.

No, I'm glad that she had her twins because I no longer have to hear the constant updates.

As soon as Jolie entered the hospital, there was a stakeout of photographers and news channels waiting to see when Brad and her three children would visit her. Breaking news on CNN would include the health of her two unborn babies and what Maddox was wearing when he visited her.

Wow, I'm sad to say that I don't remember what city was last bombed in Iraq, but I do know the names of Jolie's two twins — even though I would change the channel as soon as Brangelina reports came on, but the baby names slipped in there anyway.

This celebrity worship is nothing new. Media starting digging into the personal lives of stars, starting mostly with Marilyn Monroe, according to a CBS story titled "New Age of Celebrity Worship." Now there are tabloids and glossy magazines that have gossip columns that are like the crack for the star struck masses.

I'm guilty of celebrity worship myself, but it is very disappointing when my trusty news channels stuff it down my throat. I don't particularly like news channels — so when I put them on, I expect hard-hitting, worldly or significant news... Not breaking news on Jolie's babies' heartbeats.

Media is being driven by "Celebrity Worship Syndrome," a diagnosis researched by the British Journal of Psychology that has a sliding scale of celebrity worship ranging from innocent admiration to resembled addiction.

The first stage of said syndrome is the most common. "Entertainment-Social" entails that people indulge in celebrities' lives as a means of social communication and enjoyment. It's a distraction and pleasant topic of conversation.

The second stage is the "Intense-personal" in which a person feels drawn to that celebrity with a deeper sense of understanding. Like saying Halle Berry is your soul mate, and seriously meaning it.

The third, and most rare case is "Borderline-Pathologic." This stage occurs when people have compulsive thoughts about their favorite celebrity or have disillusions about their celebrity — like believing the celebrity would rescue them or fall in love with them. Sufferers can fall into depression if their celebrity's life has taken a bad turn or they suddenly can't find information on them.

A 2003 American study found that one third of the public has Celebrity Worship Syndrome. So as long as the masses consume the celebrity brain-killing information, the media will continue to feed us.

It all comes down to the fact that celebrity news sells. Americans would much rather be distracted by the lives of famous people — even famous people with no merit, like reality stars — to escape from their own lives or the real world.

Truth is, we're in the middle of a war with no end in sight, the economy is crappy, the dollar is not even worth the paper it's printed on and gas is forcing people to cut back on necessities in order to travel to work.

It's an endless cycle that has gone out of control, and Jolie's twins are serving as a much-desired distraction from all that. If people were not so distracted by the lives of seemingly-significant people they don't know, who knows what we could get done as informed, free-thinking individuals.

Take a deeper look into why we're still in Iraq? Invest in alternative fuel ambitions? Push to discover why only $3 million was used to investigate 9-11 but $40 million was used to investigate the Clinton scandal? Na, just sit back and analyze the meaning behind celebrity baby names, because that's more interesting.

The Current Sauce

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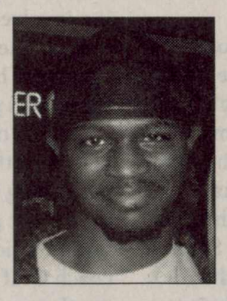
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Just a small town boy

Kevin Clarkston
Features Reporter

New York. Atlanta. Los Angeles. To many kids growing up in small towns with one traffic light and an everybody-knows-everybody atmosphere, these and many other big cities seem like an exciting alternate universe filled with big buildings and diverse, colorful characters.



Many high school outcasts and other misfits usually find their way to these metropolitan areas, hoping to find a place where they'll meet other weirdoes like themselves.

A native of Alexandria, I know a little bit about this desire. While Alexandria has way more than one traffic light, it is not Manhattan, and I can definitely remember many people I went to school with talk about how they couldn't wait to get out of 'Alex'— as it is referred to by its inhabitants—and move to Houston, Atlanta or at least Baton Rouge or New Orleans.

We all longed to live in a city where the downtown area didn't look deserted, clubs where you could dance without bumping into ten people or going to a Wal-Mart without seeing everyone from your church, family and kindergarten class within a space of 5 minutes.

More importantly, the reason most young people flee from small-town life is the pressure to conform. Large cities can offer the chance to live a life that suits one's personality, rather than having to worry about possible criticism or disapproval from family and friends.

Of course, living in the big city is not without its problems. While some might relish the anonymity that comes with living in a city populated by millions, others might find it lonely and isolating.

Then there's the issue of money. Cities like Los Angeles or New York are notorious for their high cost of living, and with the current state of the economy, scraping out a living on minimum wage or the first job after college can be extremely difficult.

Within my own family, some relatives have chosen to stay in Alexandria or the surrounding areas, while others have moved to California, Texas or Washington, D.C., and both groups seem to be happy with their living situations.

What the big city versus small town really comes down to is personal preference.

Those who want to break out and live in the big city will find a way, just as others will find a way to enjoy small town life.

E-mail any comments or letters to the editor to
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Students hit the road for summer

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

You can read Jack Kerouac and watch The Travel Channel all you want, but if you don't hit the road yourself, you can't comprehend the full experience.



Road trips are expensive, stressful and sometimes even dangerous. Yet thousands of college students load up their cars every summer to travel across the country for new jobs, internships, concerts, friends' weddings and family vacations.

It seems whether you're going corporate or hanging out with Mickey at the Magic Kingdom, driving is still considered the most entertaining way to get there. People love the sense of freedom associated with just driving around.

In 1973, George Lucas made "American Grafitti," a film that centered around the idea of teenagers driving around as a way to socialize. Recent movies like "Cars" (and the Rascal Flatts covers they incite) prove interest is not weaning. Even with today's soaring gas prices, I still have to wait in line at the pump.

What is it about driving that drives us?

Most people drive to work out of necessity or convenience, but on occasion, I still witness people hanging out of the windows of their cars, laughing at each other's witty banter, apparently driving just to get out of their houses.

Other people save up for pop tarts and regular unleaded fuel so that they can travel somewhere just for traveling's sake.

Sitting behind the wheel of a moving vehicle can provide people with an enormous sense of power. Even if a voyager sticks to a three-day driving schedule meticulously planned out weeks in advance, a long drive allows multiple opportunities to veer off course and take passengers on an expedition into the unknown. That sense of spontaneity and freedom could seduce even the most frugal driver.

Joel Achenbach of Slate.com, however, writes that one important factor of such a journey has been threatened by human dependence on technology, specifically GPS devices. Traveling involves interpreting landscapes and making decisions on our own, but with mapping devices like the Garmin and TomTom, we lose our sense of adventure and navigation power.

It's true. Using a GPS is kind of like asking for a booster chair at the movie theater – it's not entirely necessary and it will probably embarrass you in front of your taller friends. But for some people, removing the focus from navigation can be liberating.

I borrowed a TomTom when I drove to Oregon this summer, and it actually subtracted stress from my journey. Instead of leaning over to look at a map with tiny print, I relied on a pleasant British accent advising me to drive 300 yards and then "take the motorway." The GPS device allowed me to focus on my driving.

It was comforting to know that if I wanted to, I could stop to take pictures of the largest prairie dog in the world without the fear of getting lost. Features on the TomTom also allow you to search for restaurants, motels and other "points of interest" if you feel like taking a break, which is great if you're trying to find a Panda Express or a relatively cheap gas station.

People bemoan the GPS every time I mention I use one, but I don't see why; it's a practical backup system when your map is inaccurate and your mental compass isn't quite aligned. With or without one, though, the road will definitely keep you entertained.

Quarterback to come back?

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor



"Why, Brett? Why?" That's the question I've been asking myself ever since Brett Favre said he was leaving the NFL.

Now, oddly enough, I find myself asking the same question because Favre can't make up his mind. And let me tell you, as a huge football fan and a huge Favre fan, it's starting to drive me nuts.

The first time I saw the press conference where the teary eyed Favre announced he was done playing football and would retire to his Mississippi home, I can't lie. I really thought his run was over.

Then I looked at his final season stats: 66.5 percent completion percentage, 4,155 passing yards, 28 touchdowns and a passer rating of 95.7. After seeing those numbers, that's when I asked myself "Why, Brett? Why?" the first time.

After a few weeks passed, I realized that he was pulling a Barry Sanders, and going out on his terms, going out when he could still walk away and not be pushed out by injury. Also, it didn't hurt that he was one step from winning Super Bowl.

He went out as the greatest quarterback of all time. As an even bigger Denver Broncos fan, and more especially a HUGE John Elway fan, that last statement was hard.

Fortunately for me, the numbers will back up my greatest of all time statement: 61,655 passing yards (first all time), 5,377 completions (first all time), 442 passing touchdowns (first all time by 22), most wins as a quarterback with 160 (needless to say first all time), Oh, and how could I forget the 253 consecutive games he played (first all time)?

The numbers back me up, and he won Super Bowl XXXI. As far as I'm concerned, he should've been the Super Bowl MVP.

And while we are on the subject of MVPs, he won three consecutive regular season MVP trophies from 1995-1997. That made him the third person in NFL history, along with Jim Brown and Johnny Unitas, with three regular season MVPs - the only one to do so consecutively; another first all-time.

With all the facts on the table, I could understand why he would want to retire. I honestly went through the five steps of grieving and had finally made it to acceptance about him leaving. Then, low and behold, he says he has the "itch" to play again. I again found myself asking "Why, Brett? Why?"

This time I was curious as to why he would want to come back. As I said before, he is and was the best. He has nothing else to prove. His ticket to Canton is already punched. So, as a fan sitting on the outside, I don't understand why.

If he does come back to the NFL, whether it be for the Packers or any other team, the only place he can go is down. He can only hurt his reputation.

So, until he does or doesn't come back, I will continue asking myself, "Why, Brett? Why?"

Any response?
Send all letters
to the editor to
thecurrentsauce
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gmail.com



Photo by Leigh Gentry/Current Sauce

The Alexandria Senior High Lady Trojans huddle up to strategize with their coach at half-time.

High schoolers take a shot at team camp

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

The Lady Demon basketball team hosted a team camp for high school female basketball teams across the state Monday through Wednesday, July 28-30.

The camp gave 35 teams the chance to play eight games in three days at Prather Coliseum.

Jennifer Graf, head coach for the Lady Demons, said the coaches tried to plan the camp's game schedule to keep the teams from playing the same teams they play during their regular seasons.

One such example in the camp was the game between the Sulphur High Lady Tornadoes and the Alexandria Senior High Lady Trojans.

Lady Trojan head coach Carol Elder said the camp is a good opportunity to give her team experience.

"It helps you see where you're at," Elder said. "It lets you know what you need to work on."

Elder said the camp has shown her that her team needs to work on teamwork and confidence.

The Lady Demon Team Camp and the Lady Tornadoes are nothing new to Elder. She attended the camp when she played for Sulphur High. This game was her first time to coach against her own former coaches.

Although she said it felt weird to be on the opposite side of her coaches, she did find it interesting to see both teams using similar plays. Elder said she has incorporated a lot of what she learned at Sulphur into her team.

"It helps," Elder said about competing against similar plays. "You have to force yourself to vary."

The camp was run by the Lady Demon basketball team and coaches, but there was no teaching involved as in other basketball camps. The teaching is in the experience the high schoolers gain from the camp's games.

Most of the work for the NSU team is in the planning of the camp, not during the camp.

"I just get to stand around and watch a lot of basketball," head coach Graf said about her role during the camp.

The camp has a $425 registration fee per team, which provides a T-shirt for each girl and allows the teams to bring as many players as they want, Graf said.

The camp helps more than just the high school teams. It also has an impact on NSU and the Lady Demons.

"It's a huge recruiting tool, not just for women's basketball but also for the university," Graf said.

The camp attracts a pool of potential NSU students and players, Graf said.

"All these girls will probably go to college somewhere," Graf said.

The Lady Demons also offered situational tournaments for breaks during the day. Teams who signed up were given a situation such as being one point ahead and on defense with only 14 seconds left on the clock, Graf said.

Many of the NSU players worked the clocks for the games and kept score. Renotta Edwards, a senior guard for the Lady Demons, kept score for the games. She said although she still is working during the camp, it's nice to take a break and sit and watch the game instead of play.

Edwards wasn't able to come to a team camp like this when she was in high school, but she said she can definitely see the benefits for a player.

"It's good experience for them to play each other," Edwards said about the teams. "It's definitely good. They get a lot of exposure."

Most of the teams in the camp were from the surrounding areas, but others came from further south and even Texas.

The varsity teams included Fairview, Parkway, Sulphur, Alexandria Senior High, Pineville, Benton, Natchitoches Central, Winnfield, Caldwell, St. Mary's, Kinder, Hornbeck, Pine Prairie, Loranger, Crowley, Castor, Rapides, Florien, Anacoco, Riverdale, South Beauregard, Dodson, Grant, Marksville, Hathaway, Calvin, and Winona and Caney Creek, Tx.

The seven junior varsity teams at the camp were from Parkway, Fairview, Sulphur, St. Mary's, Benton, Riverdale and Caney Creek.

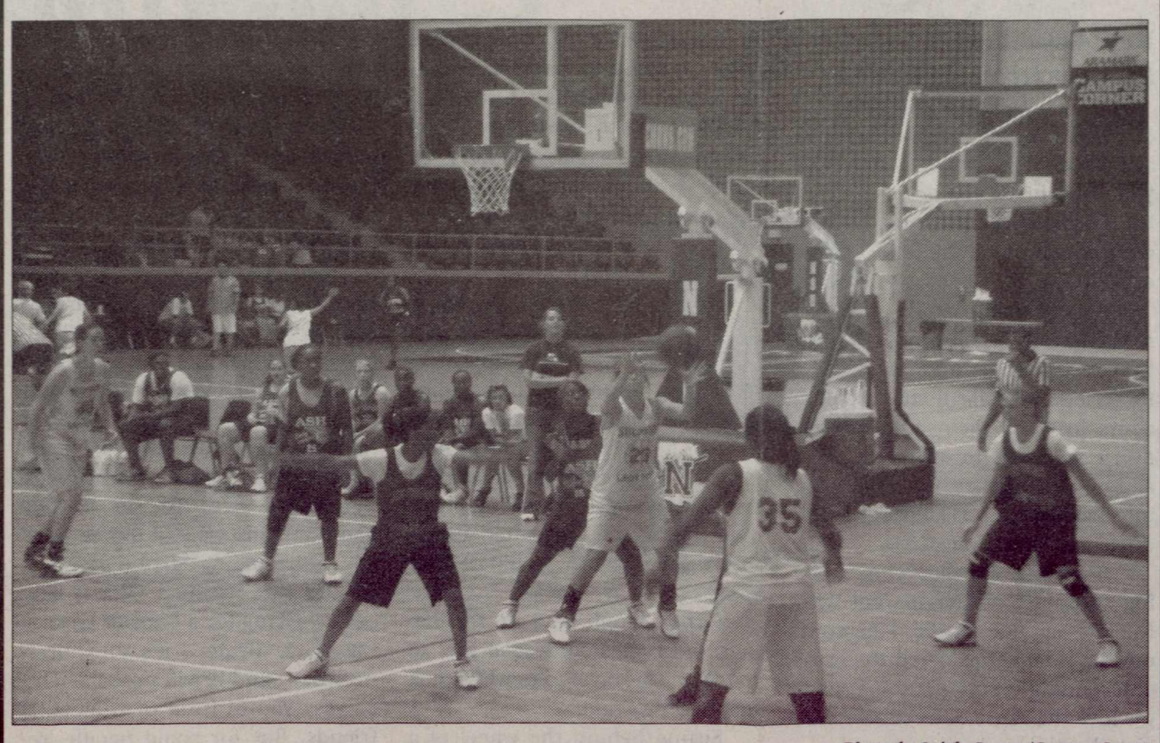


Photo by Leigh Gentry/Current Sauce

The Sulphur High School Lady Tornadoes battle the Alexandria Senior High Lady Trojans.

Demon comes close to 2008 Olympics

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

EUGENE, Ore. – Samantha Ford, NSU's 2003 All-American women's javelin thrower finished 11th at the USA Olympic Trials for track and field.

"Sam went with a full approach and was just out of kilter," said Mike Heimerman, whose specialty is coaching throws.

Ford's best mark in the 12 woman finals was 159-0, 16-10 short of her personal best at 175-10. Her personal best ranked her 11th. She ranked eighth in the preliminary round, cutting the field in half with a throw of 170-10.

Ford competed in front of 21,949, a Hayward Field record. She fouled on her first attempt, threw 175-8 on her second and recorded her longest on her third.

"The crowd was so noisy, just an awesome atmosphere, and I don't think she could hear me shouting at her to shorten her approach," said Heimerman. "Lots of the athletes have talked about how the incredible crowds have both helped and hurt them because they've gotten too wound up, not managed their excitement the right way," he said.

Ford graduated from NSU in biology in 2006. She is studying cardio-pulmonary medicine at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

Ford will now turn her attention to training for the 2009 World Championships.

"Sam has a chance to really develop into one of the best throwers in the nation if she can commit to more training," said Heimerman.

Kenta Bell joined Ford as the only two Demons competing.

2008 Demon Football Schedule

8/30	***Texas A&M-Commerce***	***6 p.m.***
9/6	Baylor	6 p.m.
9/13	***Grambling State***	***6 p.m.***
9/20	***Cal Poly***	***6 p.m.***
9/27	***Southestern Okla State***	***6 p.m.***
10/11	***Nicholls State***	***6 p.m.***
10/18	Southeastern Louisiana	6 p.m.
10/25	***Sam Houston State***	***2 p.m.***
11/1	Texas State	3 p.m.
11/8	Central Arkansas	4 p.m.
11/15	***McNeese state***	***6 p.m.***
11/22	Stephen F. Austin	6 p.m.

Bold indicates home games.

NSU athletics gives back to supporters with tour

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Northwestern State's Victory Tour is in the latter half of its eight events as the Demon coaches and athletic staff travels around the state to meet and greet supporters of Demon athletics.

The events were open to the public and free of charge. Refreshments and food are provided, along with NSU material and Demon attire available for purchase. Door prizes are also given away.

Each event lasted about two hours, consisting of a brief program featuring talks from head football coach Scott Stoker, director of athletics Greg Burke and others taking about 20 minutes in the second hour of the reception.

"Our supporters come to the Northwestern campus during the year to enjoy watching our teams play, so at this time of year we are happy to get out around the state to demonstrate our appreciation and hopefully make new friends at every Tour Stop," said Zach Williams, Tour Coordinator.

The July 3rd destination was in Sabine Parish at the Toledo Bend Association monthly meeting at the Zwolle-Toledo Lion's Club. The Rapides Parish tour stop was July 8 from 5:30-7:30 at the Diamond Grill, 924 Third Street in Alexandria.

The Shreveport/Bossier City Victory Tour stop was July 10 from 5:30-7:30 at Savoie's Catering Place at 2441 East 70th Street in Shreveport.

Donald and Pat Horton hosted the Victory Tour at their home on July 18 in Coushatta for the Red River Parish supporters.

The stop in Baton Rouge was July 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel. This event is held in concurrence with the Louisiana High School Coaches' Association convention each year.

Former Demon Stuart Archer hosted the first tour stop in Lafayette on July 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. This was the first tour stop in Lafayette.

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THE CURRENT SAUCE

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

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SERIALS DIVISION
AUG 28 2008

Wednesday, August 27, 2008 ◆ Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 ◆ Volume 94: Issue 3

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Goaaal

Demon soccer team wins 2-0 against Tulsa.



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Please visit us on the Web at *www.thecurrentsauce.com*

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Weather

Wednesday 96°/71°

Thursday 96°/70°

Friday 96°/70°

Saturday 93°/70°

Sunday 93°/69°

Monday 90°/67°

Tuesday 90°/67°

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Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

President Randall J. Webb, Senator Gerald Long and NSU residential assistants christen University Place Phase II at the ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 20.

University unveils new housing

David Royal
News Editor

Despite the overcast and dreary weather, many people gathered on Aug. 20 to view the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new phase of University Place, which opened for students this past weekend.

Before officially christening the new housing complex, many officials, including President Randall J. Webb, Senator Gerald Long and Dean of Students Chris Maggio, explained the processes that occurred for the second phase of University Place to be built at NSU and offered words of optimism and encouragement to the audience.

Maggio called the day of the ceremony a "historic day" for NSU and stated that the university is "taking the next step in the right direction." Maggio said an example of this step is the fact that there is now a waiting list for housing at both phases of University Place and University Columns.

As a result of this waiting list, NSU officials have decided to temporarily re-open Varnado Hall – a traditional dorm that was closed last semester – to accommodate students.

Although this situation could be viewed as a problem, it is a problem NSU officials do not mind having because it means NSU is growing, Maggio said in an interview.

In continuation with Maggio's opinion, Senator Long said that he believes "the best days are in front of" NSU students and faculty.

Long also expressed his pride and gratitude in NSU's ability to cooperate with both Spring Valley Construction, which managed the construction of the new complex, and Campus Living Villages, which operates University Place Phase II and the rest of the privatized housing on campus.

NSU's business relationship with Campus Living Housing spans for over 10 years, beginning with the management of University Columns.

Long explained that this type of collaboration between the state and private businesses will be essential in the future and commended NSU for successfully doing so thus far.

Stephen Bruszer, Vice President of Project Management for Spring Valley Construction, called the University Place Phase II project an "enjoyable experience."

Bruszer explained that the construction of University Place Phase II required the aid of about 30 subcontractors and that the site normally had at least 80 workers present daily.

He confirmed Senator Long's beliefs concerning state and privatized collaboration by saying that although factors such as rainy weather made the construction process more difficult, with the cooperation of the NSU officials Bruszer's team was able to turn "obstacles into opportunities."

At the end of his speech, Bruszer even commented that he looks forward to working with NSU officials on the third phase of University Place.

When asked about the meaning of Bruszer's statement, President Webb responded by saying that he is "all for a Phase III," but that at this time there are no solid plans.

Webb said that in the meantime NSU officials will have to continue to judge students' opinions on Phase II and hope that eventually there will be a need for a third phase.



Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

Dean of Students and Assistant Provost Chris Maggio thanks the workers, officials and administrators who participated in making the UP II project a reality.

Competition results in lower book prices

	Demon Bookstore	Barnes and Noble	Campus Corner
Arriba Spanish 1010/20/ 2010	New $158.25	New $165.45	New $163.00
Under-standing Nutrition Nutr 1030	New $134.40 Used $100.80	New $140.00 Used $105.50	New $138.80
Calculus: Single Variable Math 2100/2110	New $136.35 Used $102.30	New $142.65 Used $107.00	Used $105.55
Under-standing Psychology Psych 1010	New $93.50 Used $70.25	New $97.65 Used $73.25	New $93.85

Tori Ladd
Sauce Reporter

In the university setting, where textbook prices mean the difference between dining out and another night of Ramen noodles, students have two new options this year — Demon Bookstore and Barnes and Noble.

When competition approaches, Demon Bookstore owner Eric Gilmore can hold his own by using his No. 1 strategy – lower book prices.

The alumnus and former Demon baseball player is originally from St. Louis and is currently making a move from Many, La. to Natchitoches.

Gilmore has a bachelor's degree in business administration and has 12 years of experience in the textbook industry. He has also worked for the Bedford, Freeman and Worth Publishing Group and the Pearson international media company.

"After being in the textbook industry, and bookstores across the states, I just wanted to bring some of what I saw back to NSU," Gilmore said.

Currently, Gilmore's business is independent. Upon his arrival in Natchitoches during the summer of 2008, Gilmore received the textbook list from NSU and from there he started looking all over the U.S. for new and used books.

"My low pricing comes from knowing books are expensive and me trying to make a name for myself," Gillmore said.

Since the opening of Demon Bookstore, Barnes and Noble replaced the University Bookstore on campus and serves as NSU's official bookstore, located downstairs in the Friedman Student Union.

In the new Barnes and Noble, customers can find video games, DVD players and cameras, which University Bookstore did not offer.

"I love working here, it's a friendly environment. Good benefits for employees, and I like the fact that Barnes and Noble is nationwide, so they definitely know what they are doing," hospitality management and tourism major and former SGA president Shayne Creppel said.

Assistant Manager of Barnes and Noble Jeremy Procell believes that the presence of three bookstores in the area will fuel competition that previously did not exist.

To head up with Demon Bookstore's low costs, Barnes and Noble will honor competitive pricing to compensate for their higher prices. With the proof of a purchase, any student can take advantage of the competitive pricing.

If a student brings a receipt or a copy of a price list to Barnes and Noble, the business may be able to adjust the price of the Barnes and Noble merchandise to match the other stores' offers.

"At Barnes and Noble, our primary goal is customer service. We are hoping for a successful semester and year in spite of the economy. Our goal is making students and faculty happy, by doing so we are happy," Procell said.

Ultimately, Gilmore believes that treating his customers with a personal touch and making them feel like family will keep his business strong and thriving.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
August 27, 2008

Ceremony cements students' status

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Students filed in to the aisles of the Fine Arts Auditorium in the A. A. Fredericks Center Sunday night for the first official New Student Convocation, an assembly of all transfer students, returning students and freshmen who plan to graduate in the year 2012.

For students like Suncica Strkie, who missed Freshman Connection and had only been on campus for five days before the convocation, the event was an introduction to the university's faculty, student organizations and traditions.

Strkie, a health and exercise science major, left Banja Luka, Bosnia to come to NSU as a tennis player.

"It was my first flight," she said. "It was very scary."

As if the intimidation of an overseas flight wasn't enough, Strkie now faces the same pressures as the other 1,100 freshmen in the class of 2012.

Several NSU officials took roles in coordinating the event. Steven Gruesbeck, the new Director of Service Learning, collaborated with Reatha Cox and Shelia Gentry on the convocation and President's Picnic.

"They thought it was a good idea to get all the freshmen together and just give them basic information, so they can get on the same page and get them ready for school," SAB President Roderick Wilson said.

The convocation and the picnic that followed introduced freshmen to a few NSU traditions, such as the alma mater, the fight for Chief Caddo and the history behind the columns.

The university served hot dogs and hamburgers at the picnic, which was originally scheduled as an outdoor event. It took place in Prather Coliseum.

Wilson said an important part of the convocation was introducing students to faculty and staff so that students could build connections with them.

About 650 students and 100 faculty attended the convocation, Gruesbeck said.

Some freshman connectors walked through the aisles before the event began, making introductions and personally greeting students.

The convocation itself served as a formal welcoming to the university, Gruesbeck said.

"This was part of the Week of Welcome, and it was really an opportunity for the students to get a glimpse of what graduation would look like," Gruesbeck said.

At the convocation, 30 dignitaries – deans, department heads, provosts and others – processed solemnly onto the stage while wearing graduation caps and gowns.

Gruesbeck said he thought the image of these leaders in their full regalia was powerful.

Gruesbeck and the other coordinators wanted current and former NSU students to participate in the convocation, and a few groups, including representatives of the Louisiana Scholars' College, showed their support for the incoming students.

Cody Bourque, the Student Government Association president, volunteered to deliver the invocation, Gruesbeck said. NSU students in the ROTC program presented the colors.

Graduate student Steven Sparkman sang the national anthem and later joined NSU choral students Kelsey Primeaux, Renee Jessup and Tyler Maxey to sing the alma mater.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Students and faculty congregate at the President's Picnic for hot dogs and hamburgers in Prather Coliseum Sunday night. The picnic followed the New Student Convocation, which took place in the Fine Arts Auditorium in the A. A. Fredericks Center.

"They were just entering freshmen not too long ago," Gruesbeck said. "I wanted to have not only faculty members and professionals up there, but also students so that the students in the audience could relate a little bit better."

NSU alumna Cary Bruno gave a speech at the convocation, as did President Randall J. Webb, Provost Thomas Hanson, law professor John G. Williams and Dean of Students Chris Maggio.

The speakers shared personal anecdotes, gave students advice and wished them well in their academic endeavors.

Jace Morris, a freshman physical therapy major who attended the convocation, said he thought the speeches were insightful.

"It was really nice. I really enjoyed it," Morris said. "I'm glad they took the time out to help us with that and everything."

Morris, a graduate of Natchitoches Central High, said he looks forward to meeting new people at NSU.

"I'm pretty excited just to see and try new things and be a part of something that's going to change," Morris said.

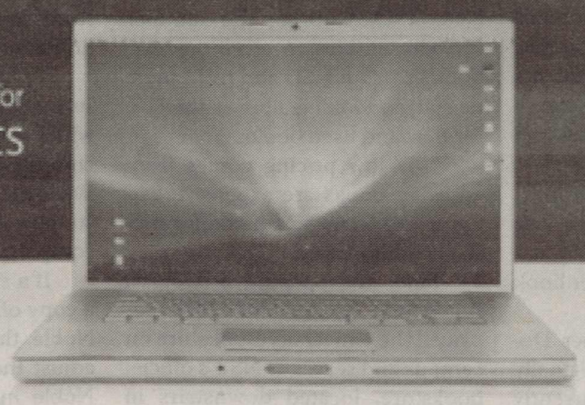
Before the end of the formal ceremony, Maggio presented Webb with a brick – engraved with "Class of 2012" – that will soon be added to the alumni plaza in the Creative and Performing Arts courtyard.

Maggio's gesture, along with the convocation, cemented the new students as official members of the university.

The New Student Convocation may become one of NSU's many traditions in the future, Gruesbeck said.

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08/08

Police Blotter

8/21

7:24 p.m.
Football player hurt at Turpin Stadium. Ambulance in route
7:54 p.m.
Ambulance transport player to NPH (Natchitoches Parrish Hospital)

8/22

8:10 a.m.
Alarm goes off in University Place Phase I building 2
8:14 a.m.
Alarm reset
8:25 a.m.
Alarm was pulled by student in laundry room.

8/23

4 p.m.
Vehicle stalled at main gate
4:12 p.m.
City takes over.

8/24

5:23 a.m.
Caller advises that 2 guys are under bridge at walking path.

8/25

4:24 p.m.
Student reports lost wallet in Student Union.
7:59 p.m.
Asked to check on student at University Place Phase II
8:04 p.m.
Walk through University Place Phase II and find that student is okay

8/26

1:03 a.m.
Retrieve jumper cables to jump car
1:09 a.m.
Car got started.
4:15 p.m.
Student walks in with head injury from the WRAC
4:17 p.m.
Ambulance in route

The Current Sauce collects the police blotter each week from the Campus Police department.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
lgentry001@student.nsula.edu
August 27, 2008

Chicken never goes hungry

Identity of mysterious campus chicken revealed

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

Do you know why the chicken actually crossed the road? The answer to this age-old question has finally been discovered on the NSU campus.

Stephanie Stanton is the administrative coordinator in St. Denis Hall and first noticed the chicken roaming around the post office. She began feeding Dumplin' a year ago and has since added a bucket of chicken feed to the existing office décor. Stanton has gained Dumplin's trust and now interacts with the chicken firsthand.



"It took me a while to get her to eat out of my hand," Stanton said. "She couldn't eat the critter food I bought at first so I bought a 50-pound bag of cracked corn."

Dumplin' doesn't have a set feeding time during the day. She will make her way across the street "when she is ready," Stanton said. Dumplin' also causes traffic to stop when she begins to cross the street.

"I love it when the cars driving by stop and wait for her to walk across the street," Stanton said. "I've even seen some students take pictures of her with their cell phones."

Stanton was "impressed by her colors" and did some research on the Internet. She discovered that Dumplin' is a Rhode Island Red and Rhode Island White poultry breed. Along with the food from Stanton, Dumplin' can be seen foraging for food around campus.

"She doesn't need me all the time," Stanton said. "I just give her better food than what she can find around here."

Stanton has more than just Dumplin' to feed. She began feeding a squirrel, Squirrely Girl, the same food she gave the chicken. Stanton noticed a change in Dumplin's behavior and actually watched her chase away the squirrel during one of her feedings.

"I never knew chickens had such attitudes," Stanton said. "She avoided me for two weeks after that, and now I feed them separately."

Stanton's co-workers find her feeding sessions quite amusing. Stanton has been known to put her work down to step outside whenever the animals are ready to eat. Her feeding habits have spread to other workers in St. Denis Hall as well.

"I think it's great," reconciliationist Sherrie Thomasee said. "I've almost gotten to feed the squirrel, but I think she's afraid of me."

Stanton plans to continue feeding Dumplin' and Squirrely Girl while they are still around. She has concerns for the animal's safety on campus and gets worried when students mess with them. Stanton hopes that student's will respect the animals and just let the chicken keep crossing the road.

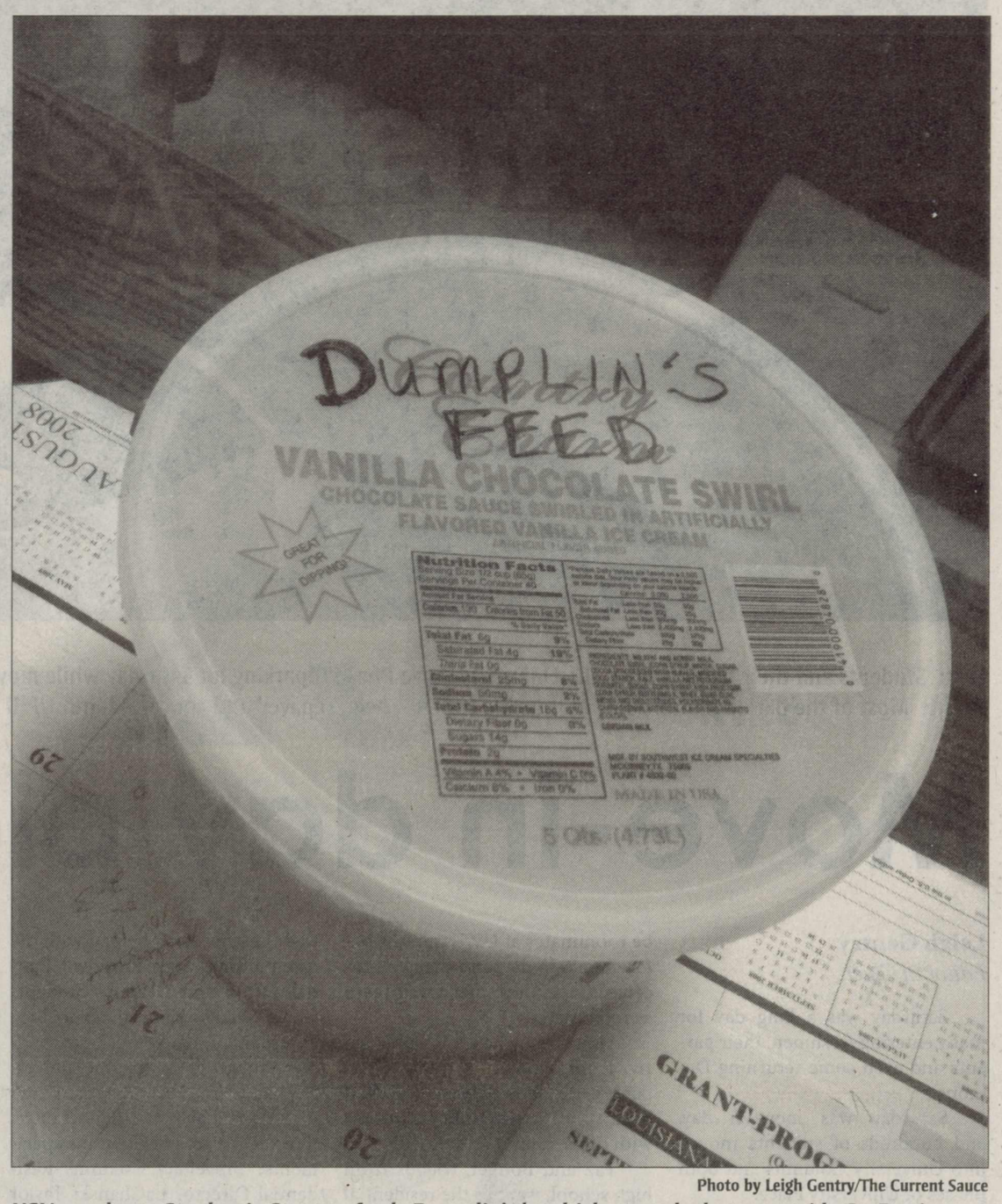
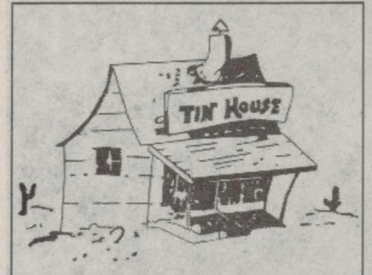


Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

NSU employee Stephanie Stanton feeds Dumplin' the chicken cracked corn outside St. Denis Hall on a regular basis. She thought up the chicken's name because she was craving chicken and dumplings one day. Stanton keeps a bucket of feed by her desk.

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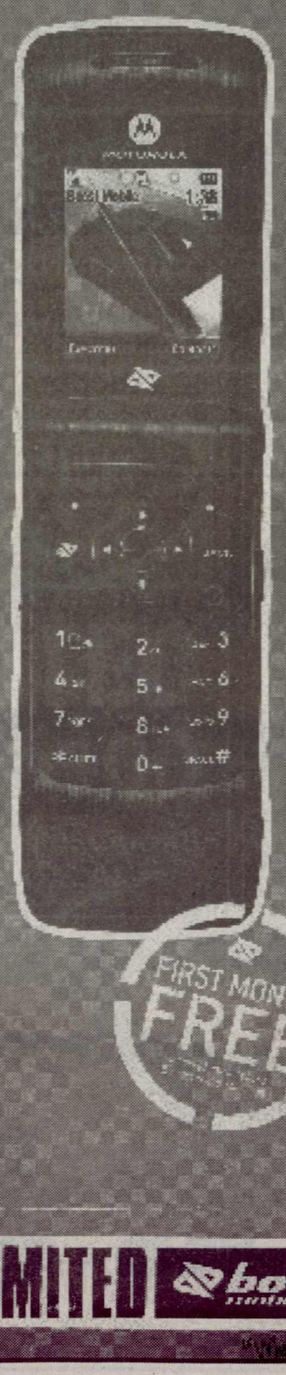
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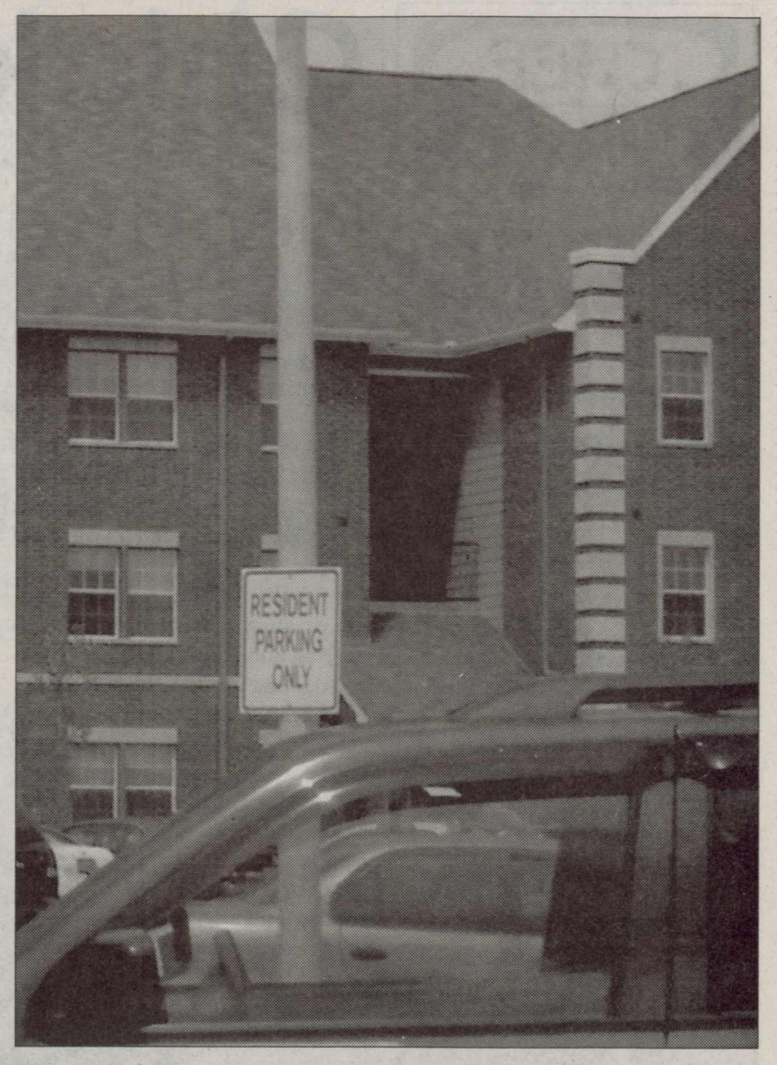
Representative @ Large (3 Positions Open)

Residential Representative (1 Position Open)

Applications are in Room 214 of the Student Union
Deadline to submit the application is September 5th by 4pm

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor
kfonteno002@student.nsula.edu
August 27, 2008





Photos by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

Left: Students and their parents filled the University Place Phase II parking lot Saturday while moving into the apartment-style dorms. The dorm accommodates 394 residents this semester.
Right: Most of the parking lot in front of Iberville Hall has been repaved and converted into UP II resident parking only.

Move-in day planning pays off

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

Saturday was a long day for many entering freshmen, their parents and even some returning Demons.

Saturday was move-in day, and hundreds of students moved into University Columns and both phases of University Place.

University Place Phase II Residential Director Christian LeBlanc said the day went according to his expectations.

LeBlanc's day of checking in students and smoothing out bumps began at 7 a.m. and lasted most of the day.

The day was not without its kinks. There were a few complaints about the Internet and cable not working at University Place II, LeBlanc said, but the staff sent someone to clear up the problem.

Some of move-in day's bumps were not so small, ranging from room changes to keys not working, but LeBlanc said the residential staff was able to handle the curve balls as they spent time preparing for Saturday.

One such curve ball was a room mix-up. Tiffany Faz and Haley Bonner, two incoming freshmen from Eustace, Texas, requested to be roommates at UP II months before move-in day, and they had received paperwork that listed them as roommates.

However, when the girls arrived on campus Saturday, the paperwork showed that they had been split up into different rooms with other roommates.

Faz and Bonner, friends from high school, went to the residential director to straighten out the room situation, but they remained patient and lighthearted about it.

"We have to be together because that's how we shopped," Faz joked.

Although it was "a lot of walking" and "a lot of back-and-forth" to get to the correct paperwork, Faz said that the staff was helpful in getting everything back in order. She also said her parents remained patient throughout the day.

"They told me to do the running," Faz said about her parents.

LeBlanc said he was happy with the way move-in day ran at UP II, and he wasn't the only one.

Freshman Patrick Bennett said he was able to go straight to his room with no problems.

Although Bennett had his family to help him move in, others could take advantage of the Demon football players - decked out in their jerseys - who helped with the heavy lifting. Even President Randall Webb and Dean of Students Chris Maggio showed up to help Saturday.

Ambassadors for the university and fraternity brothers did their part in helping students move into the University Columns apartments, University Columns Residential Director LaChanski Taylor said.

Taylor said the residential assistants stayed up until midnight every night for two weeks prior to move-in day in order to be prepared to handle the influx of 512 students.

They put together move-in packets for the incoming residents, sorted through keys, completed reports about each apartment and even helped with maintenance, Taylor said.

Taylor's team consisted of himself and five residential assistants, and his team of six was responsible for being ready for move-in day.

"We can handle it," Taylor said about the work on Saturday.

He explained that three of his residential assistants were returning and had experience and that his team also included Chris Thomas, the Louisiana residential assistant of the year.

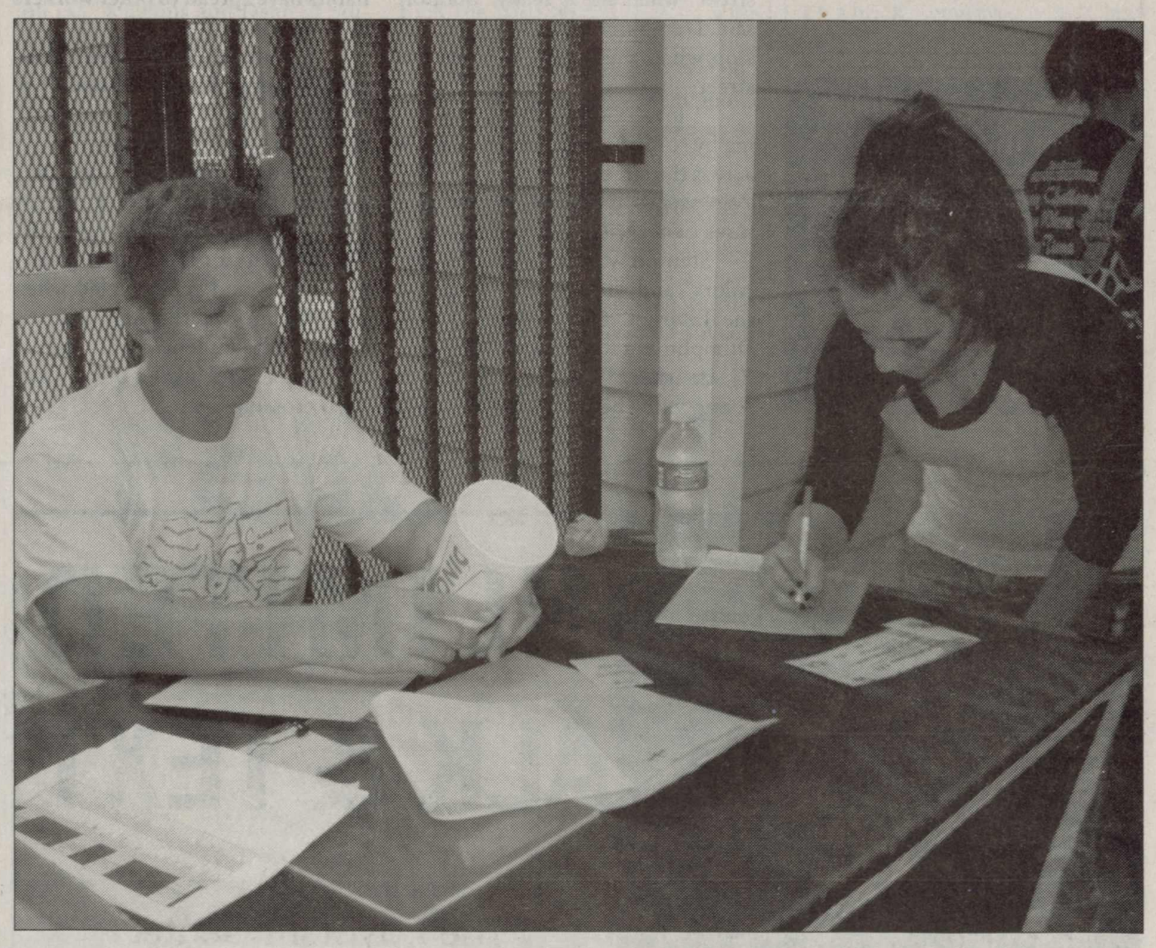


Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

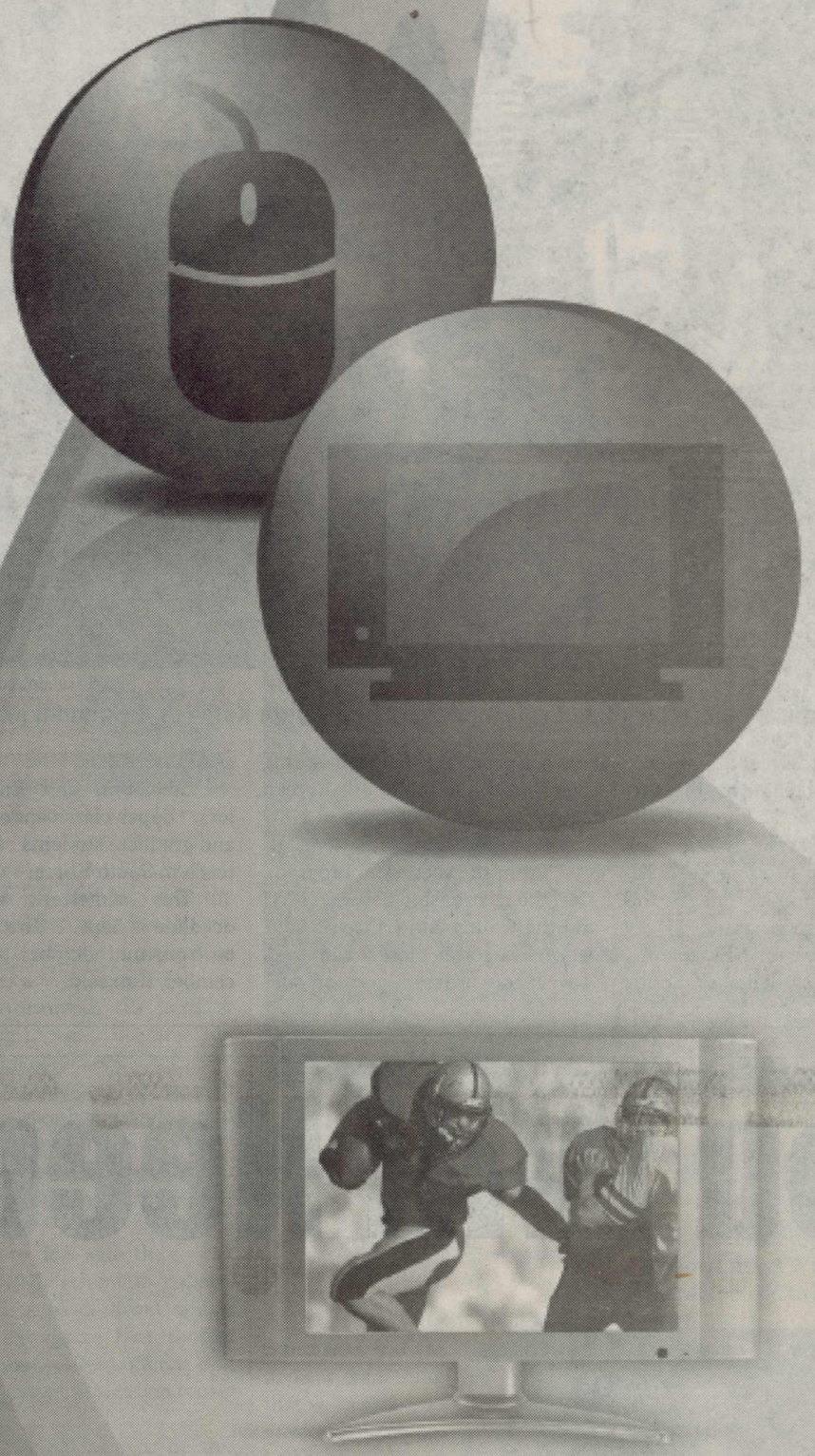
Entering freshman Kady Delcambre fills out paperwork while Residential Assistant Cameron Jones checks her into the second phase of University Place.

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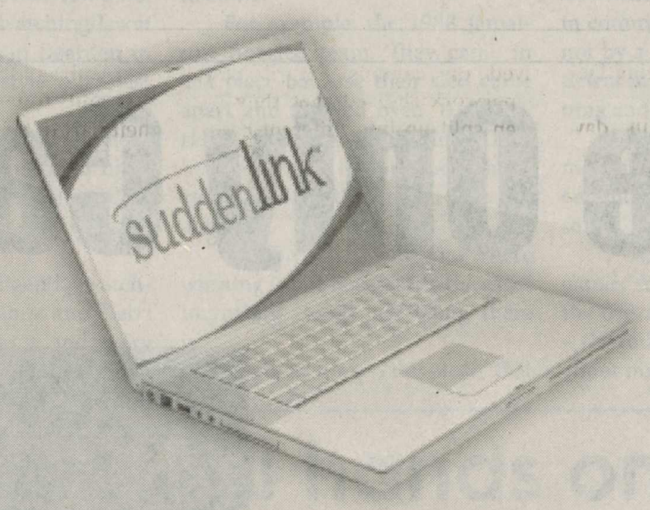
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August 27, 2008

Teachers seek cultural exchange

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

Over the summer while most students relaxed during their summer vacations, South Korean teachers traveled to NSU to go back to the classroom.

Thirty K-12 South Korean English teachers were on the Natchitoches campus July 17-Aug. 7 to learn classroom techniques and practice the English language as part of the cultural exchange program developed by Kion Kim, assistant professor of education technology.

Kim has been working to organize a group of South Korean teachers to take classes on English and teaching techniques.

Their morning class, lasting from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., was on the writing, comprehension and conversational aspects of the English language and their afternoon class, from 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., focused on teaching skills.

Kim had to find afternoon activities for the group to do since "there's not much to do" in Natchitoches.

The group played a different sport every day for two hours before supper ranging from golfing to swimming.

"Things are so busy in Korea. We don't have enough time to exercise every day," Soojin Cho, who has taught English in Korea for six years, said.

After they ate supper at Iberville Hall, the group usually went to the Wellness, Recreation and Activities Center to participate in physical activities like running or weightlifting.

Cho said activities like golfing or gaining access to a swimming pool can be pretty expensive in South Korea.

She liked how the WRAC offered them more opportunities to enjoy activities like pingpong or racquetball whenever they wanted.

The 30 South Korean teachers stayed in University Place I during two weeks of their stay.

They also boarded in the homes of some faculty members and volunteers from the First Baptist Church for five days.

President Randall J. Webb, NSU staff and members of the First Baptist Church helped the group, Cho said.

The biggest transition the group had to take part in was adjusting to the new cuisine. Jeongsik Kim, who has been teaching English for five years, said it was challenging but a good experience.

"We had hard time to adapt," he said. "Not many Korean choices, but we enjoyed all kinds of food."

The Iberville chef even surprised the group with some Korean specialties.

"The chef made Korean style food three times for us…I'm so thankful to her," Cho said.

The group also took day trips to local attractions like the Old Courthouse Museum, the alligator park and a few plantations.

They also went to a few local schools to view the teaching environment and took trips to grocery stores to practice their English and buy supplies.

Some foreigners look forward to visiting the bigger cities of the U.S., but Kim said after being here a while, Natchitoches started to grow on them.

"They love this place," Kim said. "They have been telling me that this is very peaceful and a lovely place."

Since this was the first time for a Korean group to come to NSU, it was a big stepping-stone for the cultural exchange program.

It is expected for NSU to continue sending students to South Korea during the fall and spring semesters while the South Korean teachers continue coming to NSU over the summer.

"From the successful program, I feel the relationship between NSU and the Chungnam Office of Education has gotten closer," Kim said. "I wish this program goes on successfully."

Education and English majors, upper-class undergraduates and graduate students can apply to teach in South Korea.

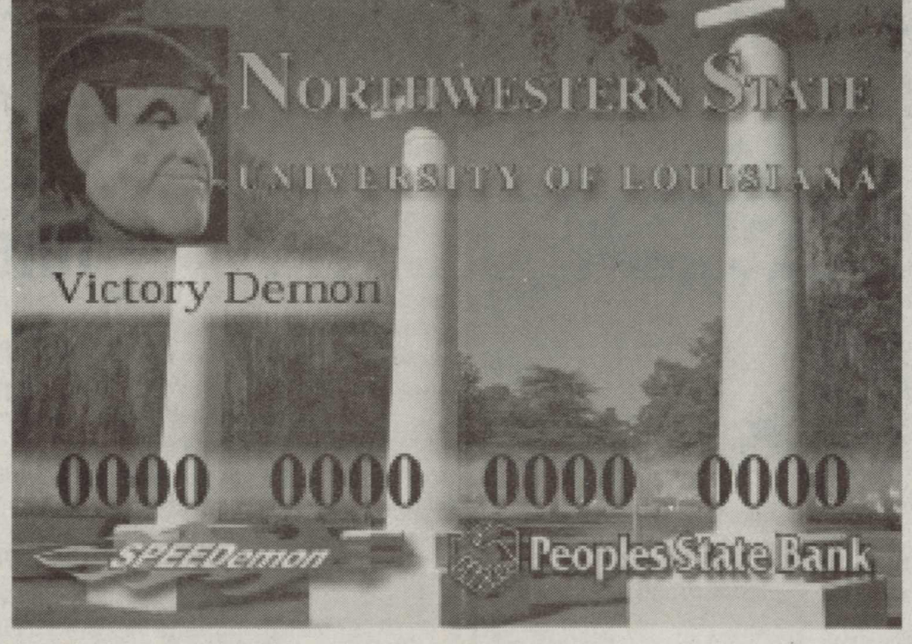
This semester's application deadline is Sept. 1. The trip would be from mid-October to mid-December, Kim said.



Photo submitted by Kion Kim

Kion Kim and Vickie Gentry of the College of Education meet with 30 English teachers from South Korea in the alumni plaza.

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August 27, 2008

Half the battle

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



Hello, boys and girls. Can you feel it? The warm sunshine on your face as you walk to class? The cool air conditioning of the buildings you go to class in? The drool you're desperate to wipe off your face before the teacher notices you've been sleeping?

Oh, how I love the fall.

I'm Joe Cunningham, your new opinionated tour guide for this semester, and I am here to lead you through the fun times ahead.

I figure that the best way to understand an opinion is to understand the opinion's author, so I'm going to introduce myself and hopefully not bore you so much you refuse to look at this page for the remainder of the semester.

I am a native of Natchitoches, a junior at this fine institution and a cynical, liberal Democrat.

Hip hip hooray.

We have a great fall ahead of us, boys and girls, especially for an Opinions page. I mean, we all know the presidential race will be a goldmine, but there are plenty of local issues waiting to be discovered and discussed by me, the columnists here at The Current Sauce, and, of course, you, my dearest readers.

I'm not joking. I really want to see more input from you. Send an e-mail, letter, ransom note or leave a comment at our Web site. Give us your complaints, grievances and opinions.

Like I've said twice already, this will be a great fall, and I will try to leave no stone unturned, but I will always need help in identifying the issues you want to see discussed.

And that's where you come in.

So, put on a pot of coffee, sit back and enjoy the fall, my friends. It should prove entertaining.

As a final thought: For those of you who don't recognize the reference in the name of this column, or if it seems familiar, but you can't place it, it comes from the old G.I. Joe cartoon's popular line "And now you know ... and knowing is half the battle!"

THE CURRENTSAUCE

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Freshman gives insight to new chapter of life

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar



Harrowing. Exciting. New. These are words that successfully describe the transition from high school to college.

It's fun to be hit with the realization that you will be venturing out into a world riddled with new people and new things as well as new stresses and anxieties.

As a freshman, it's hard at times trying to figure out how you will ever manage school, work and a social life. At one point do we step back, take a breath and realize that through it all everything will work out and college just might prove to be a successful investment in our futures?

A way to deal with the transition from high school to college, I've found, is to confront things head on. Recognize that though college life has a lot to offer, it isn't all fun and games. Education is preeminent.

Class doesn't have to be this ho-hum requirement. It can actually be a rewarding experience seeing as these classes provide knowledge in the fields you and I will one day be working in.

Yes, setting aside time for studying and sticking to that schedule will take some getting used to, but any situation can be turned into a good one by making it your own.

Stepping into the shoes of a college freshman entails getting acquainted with the campus, faculty, staff and other students.

Establishing relationships with those around you makes your college experience more worthwhile. Meeting other freshmen in the same boat as yourself takes the edge off of feeling anxious.

Now that you've had a chance to go to your classes, meet your instructors and new people, it's time to outline your study plan and find out what's going on around campus so that you can enjoy your stress-free college life.

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Heil McCain

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



There are times that you see or hear something that will cause you to start twitching, and you will bleed from your eyes and ears. For me, it was this past Monday morning.

As I was flipping through channels on my TV, I, for reasons that escape me, stopped on Fox News. Some of the anchors were discussing Madonna, which should have been a warning sign.

At the beginning of Madonna's "Sticky and Sweet" tour (I know, I shot a double-take, too), in Cardiff, Wales, a series of images was displayed during an interlude in the four-act concert.

The images depicted scenes of destruction and global warming, as well as the face of Adolf Hitler, followed by John McCain, a not-so-subtle jab at the Republican presidential nominee.

You read that right. She compared McCain to Hitler.

The moment I heard "Madonna compared Senator John McCain to Adolf Hitler," I turned off the TV, curled into a fetal position on my couch, and cried myself to sleep.

How? Why? What on earth did John McCain do to be compared to Hitler?

Did he murder millions of Vietnamese while I wasn't looking?

It's a horrible comparison to make, really. Sure, McCain's a Republican, but even I will admit that Republicans aren't on par with propagandist dictators with a penchant for mass murder and biological engineering.

But, I could be wrong.

This presidential race has brought out the worst in some of us, intellectually. Some of the things people say make me so upset I stick my fingers in my ears and yell "Blah, blah, I can't hear you" at my TV.

Charlie Black, a former senior campaign manager for McCain, stated that a terrorist attack would be good for McCain, calling it a "big advantage."

Bill Clinton told one of his supervisors that in return for support, Barack Obama could "kiss my ass," according to a report by The Telegraph, an online newspaper based in the UK.

And now, Madonna adds herself to the list of people that will probably cause me to expire at an early age due to an aneurysm.

BS'ing with the Bull:

Why the Olympics are great

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor



Since the Olympics are not to return until 2012, I feel there will be a bit of a void in my life for at least the next few days. I vividly remember watching Jason Lezak out-touch Alain Bearden to win the 4x100 freestyle relay last week.

It was crazy. My dad and I watched at 1:30 in the morning, yelling at the top of our lungs when Lezak and the USA team won the gold.

I remember diligently watching Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh play every game and every set. I only missed the gold medal match because I moved into a house and the cable had not been activated.

No, I didn't watch because they were in bikinis. I watched because I genuinely cared.

I know why I miss all that already. Simply put – it's the Olympics.

The Olympics are the only event where you can finish dead last and be remembered for years to come.

For example, the 1988 Jamaican Bobsled team. They came in last place because their sled came apart and toppled over. They carried it over the finish line. That became such a famous moment in sports history they made a movie about it.

The Olympics are a place where winning is not necessarily the most important thing, just being there is.

There is only one place that you can get so much enjoyment and pride not only for yourself but for your country, and that's at the Olympics.

The Olympics are so big that there is an unwritten rule about wars that happen during the Olympics. It's known as the Olympic cease-fire. The war stops for two weeks while the games proceed.

In the 1930s, Jesse Owens – a black man – demeaned Adolf Hitler so much that he sent his second in command to give out the medal, not by a huge act of bravery, nor a defeat in battle, but just by outrunning and outjumping everyone.

The thing I'm going to miss most about the Olympics is not the ceremonies, nor the games themselves.

I will miss most what the games stand for: pride, unity, and the overall betterment of mankind – the things everyone seems to care about only every four years.

Bourque: All hands on deck

Cody Bourque
SGA President



I just got back into my office after the Freshman Convocation activities (which was great to see so many incoming freshman classmates participate in), and I took a step back.

My desk is cluttered with things that need to be worked on, and I have been running around attending so many meetings in the past couple of months that I feel like an airport rental car stopping only in between tasks and to gas up (in my case gas is the Mad Scientist from Mighty Max). In taking that step back though, I always remember that through all the work, that I, along with my other fellow representatives (especially Vice President Mark Daniels, who has busted his butt taking care of the organization and filling in for me while I was taking part in Gear Up Florida), are rewarded for our work with more than just scholarships.

For those that do not know, I was not elected.

I was extremely disappointed that I assumed the position through acclimation and not by a vote by the student body, but that does not negate the fact that I am still responsible for the welfare of all students, which is not something that I take lightly.

The slogan, so to speak, this year is "It's all about you." Not very creative, but it gets to the point of why we all are serving in our respective positions in Student Government, which is to convey the issues facing the students to University administration and other officials so student life will be better off tomorrow than it is today.

Responsibilities aside, the main thing that I would like to ask of you is to take a sense of ownership in our University. Take the time to learn our traditions and participate in student activities. You already pay fees, so you might as well get your money's worth and enjoy your time here.

With this ownership, make sure to voice your opinion. Do it in this paper or at an SGA meeting, it does not matter how you do it, just do it because without your opinion it is impossible to properly guide our student body.

I look forward to talking to you more about the issues facing us in the coming weeks, but I wish you the best of luck this semester with all that you do. If you are interested in getting involved with Student Government or just need some directions to your next class, come by room 222 in the Union and we will help you out.

Fork 'em.

Student turns table with grading system

Richelle Stephens
Guest Columnist



It is indeed a most joyous time on NSU's campus as the school year begins anew. The sharp aroma of fresh and bright purple paint coats the walls and the already excited air that has filled my lungs such that, upon first glance, I suspected it an air of change.

My suspicions were confirmed, but for the better. And it's certainly not just the starch of the freshmen's laundry and bed sheets, either.

Stepping into any of the (now) three bookstores is perhaps the most famous indication of what I'd like to refer to as the much-needed rejuvenation of the parched university.

To see much beloved literary classics in a store that would not have carried them two months ago is certainly a marked improvement.

And, of course, I am delighted to see that the new faces (those of not only the Demon Bookstore but also of the new ownership in the existing store) in the NSU textbook scene have helped to invoke such strong feelings of relief from someone who had thought just last semester that all hope seemed lost for this institution in that respect.

I am steadfast in my belief that I'm not the only student (and perhaps even professor, depending upon whom you ask) who feels similarly.

It seems as if the idea of "shaking it up," if you will, isn't just confined to the bookstores but also to the athletic department.

The new video scoreboard in Turpin Stadium, along with renovations of existing athletic facilities, is adding to the already homey feel that I've come to expect from that part of campus.

If you haven't been to a Demon athletic event, shame on you, for now is the best time to take part in an exciting and truly unique part of your NSU experience.

I don't wish to sour this otherwise jubilant exaltation of my feelings regarding the whirlwind of changes I've noticed thus far, but for every good there is also a bad, I suppose.

Am I the only one who noticed the severe shortage of parking spots in the large lot on the first day of classes?

I have yet, in my time at this university, to see it so full. Or maybe I've been removed from this school for far too long this time...

Since I always enjoy the feeling of the "Back to School" season, both in shopping and in anticipation of finally getting back into a welcoming desk seat and eager to learn (seriously), I feel as if I must offer my own trite yet fitting report card for NSU thus far (as of the first day of classes when this column was originally written):

In terms of exciting my expectations of the university which I proudly call my own, through the overall feel I got when I came back for the first time this school year, I give an A.

In terms of the new faces in the local textbook markets and the improvements underway for the athletic facilities, I give both an A.

However, I must give the parking situation an F, although that can't be helped much given space restrictions, so perhaps it's not fair for me to give such a grade.

Regardless of the parking situation, NSU has certainly exceeded my usual expectations this time. For those who tread it for the first time this semester, take pride in the direction it's seemingly headed.

Although I've been a true and proud Demon since the beginning, I can now wear my pride with greater fervor, for I believe that it has found its winning formula and could very well do exciting things in the very near future. Time will tell, of course, but for now consider me optimistic.



Photo by Andy Bullard/The Current Sauce

NSU began the rejuvenation process by installing new scoreboards at Turpin Stadium and the Demon Soccer Complex. The process continues with scoreboards at Prather Coliseum, the Demon Diamond, Brown-Stroud Field and the Ledet Track Complex.

Looking good for 125

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

NSU may be approaching its 125th birthday, but you would never know it.

The university is making things more visually pleasing to the fans by updating the scoreboards at all sporting venues except tennis.

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana system approved the project during its April meeting. The project will cost approximately two million dollars and renovations are scheduled to be finished with the installation of the baseball, softball, and track and field scoreboards in late November.

"This was a huge project and just like in big projects there is a lot of red tape that you have to go through, but the scoreboards will definitely make things look nicer and should definitely help with recruiting and most important it will enhance the game-day experiences for the fans," Marketing Director Ryan Holloway said.

The scoreboards are already up and functioning at the Demon Soccer Complex and at Turpin Stadium. The Prather Coliseum scoreboard and scorer's table are in the process of being designed and will be installed before the basketball and volleyball seasons begin. The Prather Coliseum installations will feature LED message centers at the north and south ends of the arena, as well as digital panels on the scorer's table for basketball and volleyball.

The baseball and softball scoreboards will provide extended statistics not currently offered on the old scoreboards, and the track scoreboards at the Ledet Complex will give precision results for all eight lanes.

"This is a huge boost for NSU and our football program," Demon head football coach Scott Stoker told Sports Information. "It shows the level of commitment that our administration and our supporters have, and it's going to make running through that purple smoke to play for the Demons in Turpin Stadium an even greater experience for years to come. There are a lot of people who played key roles, and we especially want to thank Mr. Burke for steering this project over the goal line."

The Jack Fisher Tennis Complex will be the only spot on campus without an electronic scoreboard.

The small size of the complex does not require the advanced technology.

"It is exciting to know that the student-athlete recruiting process, game day fan experience, and everyday facility aesthetics for our entire athletic program just took a huge step forward as a result of this project being approved at the state level," Athletic Director Greg Burke told Sports Information.

Gold Rush

U.S. swimmer makes history

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

August 8, 2008. The eighth day of the eighth month of the eighth year of this millennium: the day these unforgettable Olympics started. In China, the number eight is considered to be auspicious and successful.

Is it ironic or lucky that the most compelling story of these games was American swimmer Michael Phelps winning not six, not seven, but, of course, eight gold medals?

However it may be perceived, one thing is undeniable: history was made in Beijing. Michael Phelps accomplished something no athlete in history has ever accomplished. Phelps broke Mark Spitz's 36-year-old record of seven gold medals.

His eight golds came in every way thinkable: relays, medleys, individual events, races he won by a fingertip and races where it appeared Phelps had gills and fins.

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt literally ran away with three gold medals of his own. He recorded a ridiculous 9.69 in the 100-meter dash, breaking his own world record.

Bolt's 6-foot-5-inch frame gives him the ability to take larger strides than other sprinters. Bolt needs only 41 strides to finish 100-meters, while shorter sprinters need closer to 50.

In his first Olympic appearance, Bolt recorded a 19.30 mark in the 200-meter dash, another world record.

Bolt's third gold was the 4x100 relay. He finished first in every event except the men's 200-meter dash, 5th heat, where he finished a dismal second.

The 2008 Olympics are certainly one for the ages. Todd Bachman was stabbed to death by a Chinese man, and his wife, Barbara, was seriously injured while attending the games in Beijing.

Bachman's daughter Elisabeth, a former Olympic volleyball player, accompanied them to the games. She is married to the U.S. men's Olympic volleyball coach, Hugh McCutcheon.

The men's team dedicated its performance to the Bachman's honor. The United States won the gold.

U.S. athletes responded well to these horrifying events.

The women's basketball team brought home the gold, dominating Australia in the gold medal game 92-65.

Everyone remembers the disappointing bronze medal in Athens for the men's team. Coming into the 2008 games as an underdog, the Coach K.-led team dominated every team it faced, earning the nickname "Redeem Team."

The men's team, like the women's team, entered the final game undefeated. Spain awaited the Redeem Team.

The Spanish team certainly proved to be the Redeem Team's toughest competition. Close to 4 a.m. Central Time, the United States reigned supreme once again as best in the world, defeating Spain 118-107.

The U.S. softball team had a very similar Olympics, dominating every opponent.

The United States' dominance of baseball and softball were so great, the International Olympic Committee voted to remove both sports.

This was before the United States faced Japan in the last Olympic softball game. Final score: Japan 3-United States 1; the first time in Olympic history the United States did not win the gold medal in softball.

After two grueling weeks for these competitors, the United States won the most medals, totaling 110, ten more than second place China.

The host country, however, won more golds than any other nation with 51. The United States finished second in that category by winning 36.

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True freshman reaches goal

Demon soccer team defeats Tulsa in 2-0 victory

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

NSU true freshman Kayla King is already making an impact on the soccer field for the Demons.

King scored two goals, both in the second half, in the Demons' 2-0 shutout win versus Conference USA member Tulsa.

King's first goal, a header off a cross pass from Rachel O'Steen, came in the 58th minute.

Only 28 minutes after King gave NSU the lead, the true freshman netted her second goal of the game on a breakaway. The 86th minute goal gave NSU a 2-0 cushion.

"We were frustrated at the half," NSU head coach Jimmy Mitchell told Sports Information after a scoreless first half. "We had very little energy in the first half and we challenged them at halftime to come out better in the second period."

The Demons responded well to the coach's orders, avoiding serious threats throughout the game.

NSU's defense kept them in the game, being outshot 17-6 and 9-4 in shots on goal.

"We really dodged a lot of bullets from them today," Mitchell told Sports Information. "We made some really good plays in the net."

Heather Burt stretched out across the net line deflecting a shot that would have been a goal for the Golden Hurricanes.

Starting goalie, Amanda Vines, was distracted from the net by other activity.

Vines was not the expected starter for the season opener, but she handled the responsibility by recording her first career shutout.

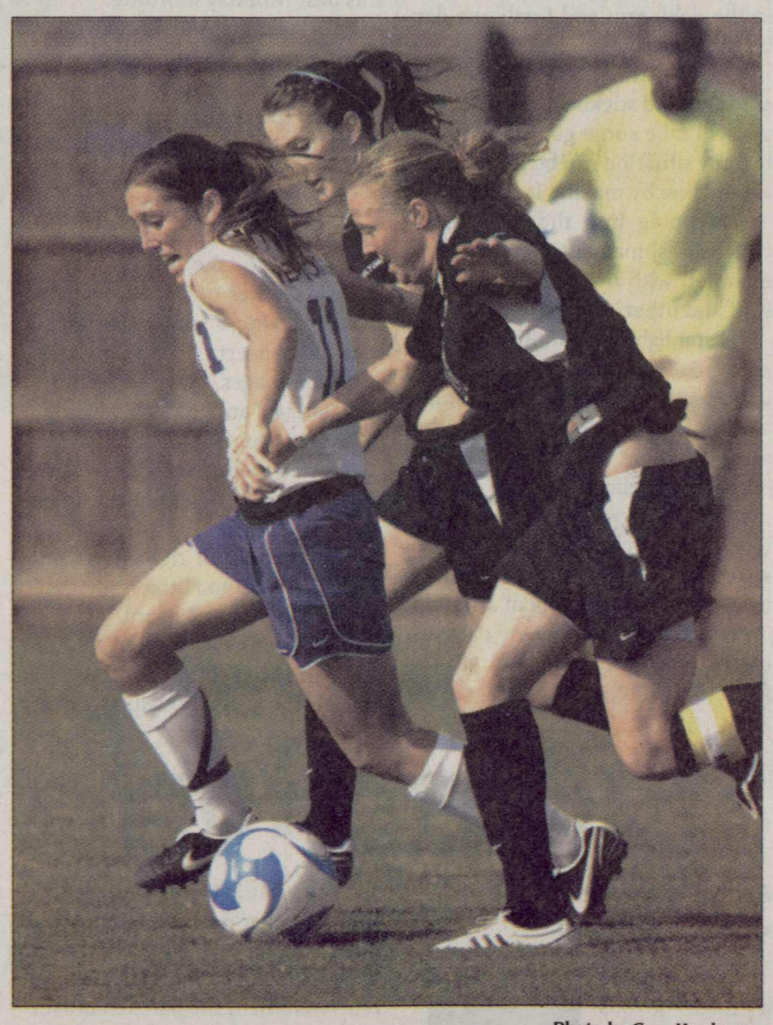


Photo by Gary Hardamon

Kayla King (11) battles two Tulsa defenders in the Demons' 2-0 win Saturday. King secured the win with her second goal four minutes before the clock ran out.

Vines had nine saves in the Demons' 2-0 win.

Named starter Lindy Strahan sat out during the game. According to nsudemons.com, she sat out due to disciplinary reasons.

Despite a slow first half and lackluster offense, Coach Mitchell was pleased with Vines' impromptu start.

"I thought we were pretty solid in the back and in the net," Mitchell told Sports Information.

NSU will be in Starkville Friday to take on Southern Mississippi at 5 p.m.

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The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 ◆ Natchitoches, Louisiana | Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 ◆ Volume 94: Issue 5

This week

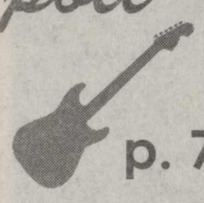
NSU highlight

Theatre student goes above and beyond...



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First student poll



Students vote for their favorite music genres.

p. 7

GSU game

Marching bands to steal the show on Saturday.



p. 8

Please visit us on the Web at *www.thecurrentsauce.com*

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Weather

Wednesday 94°/71°

Thursday 94°/74°

Friday 98°/76°

Saturday 82°/72°

Sunday 82°/67°

Monday 84°/66°

Tuesday 84°/65°

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2 News
4 Life
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8 Sports

Gustav evacuees find refuge at NSU

David Royal
News Editor

In response to the threat of Hurricane Gustav, NSU officials prepared for the worst and worked closely with the Red Cross to provide accommodations for those who evacuated their homes.

The Health and Human Performance building became a shelter for more than 650 evacuees from across the state, and Sabine Hall housed about 200 students from McNeese State University and the University of New Orleans.

Robert Crew, Executive Assistant to the President, said that in the short period of time that it had been opened, the shelter in the Health and Human Performance building reached its maximum capacity of 650 people several times.

The Red Cross has used the Health and Human Performance building as a shelter before, including for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

After Katrina and Rita hit, evacuees were housed in the Health and Human Performance building for more than a month. With Hurricane Gustav, however, the shelter was closed and returned to holding classes after about a week.

Following Gov. Bobby Jindal's lead, President Randall J. Webb made the decision Saturday before the storm hit to cancel classes for the Tuesday and Wednesday following the Labor Day break.

Webb said he thought the cancellation was necessary so that NSU's groundskeepers could clean up the campus and that faculty and students could tend to their personal needs.

"We didn't want our faculty and students to attend class while still worried about the condition of their family or home," Webb said.

Overall, Webb said that he was pleased with the communication process that took place between NSU officials and the students.

NSU posted updates on the schedule for classes on the university's home page and on Blackboard, and an announcement was made over the audio system at the NSU football game.

NSU officials did, however, deem it unnecessary to inform students of the university's plans through Purple Alert – NSU's warning system provided via text message.

"We made the decision early on to only use Purple Alert in emergencies," Webb said.

Crew explained that although he agreed a hurricane is a threat that students should be warned of, the Purple Alert system should only be used in a "crisis situation," such as an unexpected tornado.

In his interview, Webb commended many aspects of both NSU and the community for their response to Hurricane Gustav.

Webb said that he was proud of Sodexo's ability to provide meals for the many evacuees and the NSU police's ability to maintain order and security in a strained situation.

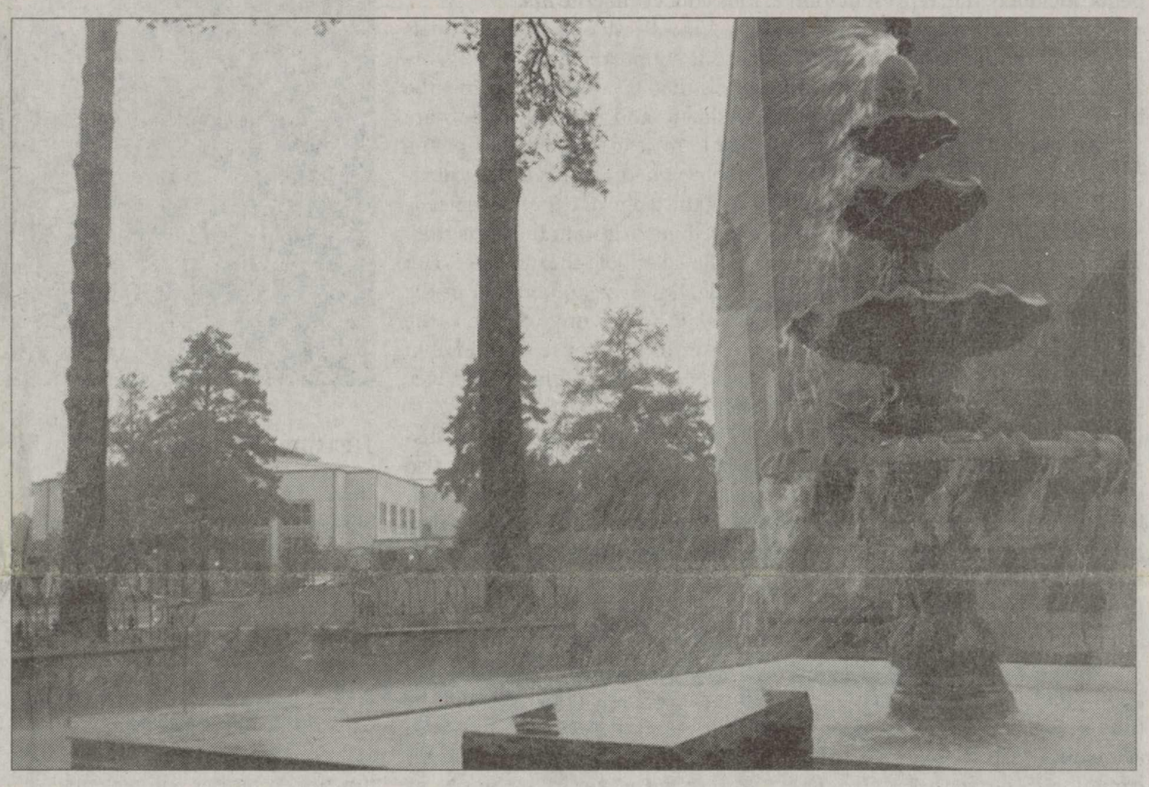
He explained, however, that he was surprised most by the willingness to help of members of the local churches, who gave a tremendous amount of time to assisting the Red Cross and Sodexo workers.

Because NSU did not sustain any significant damages from the hurricane, Webb even sent a team of seven from the Physical Plant to Nicholls State University to provide aid.

Led by Director of the Physical Plant Chuck Bourg, the team will be assisting Nicholls State by inspecting roofs and cleaning up its campus.

Now that all of the evacuees and UNO and McNeese students have left the campus, Crew said that NSU is returning to normal. With Hurricane Ike approaching, however, there is a possibility that NSU could serve as a safe haven once again.


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Photos by Scott Brown/The Current Sauce

Top: A clean-up crew picks up damage caused by Hurricane Gustav around campus Monday. **Bottom:** Water in the fountain in the Alumni Plaza near A.A. Fredericks flows sideways due to hurricane-force winds as Gustav reached Natchitoches.

Continued construction brings traffic to standstill

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Students who live off campus may have noticed an increase in heavy traffic this week. The lag, in part, is due to the blocked intersection of Front Street and Church Street, currently under construction as part of the Front Street brick project. Project manager John Bell plans to have the intersection finished by Friday.

It took five months to complete the first two phases of construction, and with just two months before the first event of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival, Bell and his company, Progressive Construction, are racing against the clock to finish laying down the bricks.

The crew typically works from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week. As of Friday, the crew started working in shifts to cover full 24-hour days, which will continue until the bricks can be returned to the Church Street intersection. Bell's goal for the intersection completion is less than a week away – Sept. 12. The anticipated deadline marks the beginning of the annual Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival.

Front Street, an integral part of the Natchitoches downtown area, was originally constructed in 1904. The street borders several storefronts, including the historic Kaffie-Frederick General Store and several restaurants.

Views from Front Street appear in the film "Steel Magnolias" and, for the last several years, the red brick road has been the location of "Boogie on the Bricks," a series of concerts organized by the Natchitoches Main Street Program to celebrate each NSU home football game.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

A Progressive Construction backhoe blocks Front Street. The backhoe sits unmanned one afternoon last week – before the construction crew implemented shiftwork, working 24 hours a day.

Most significantly, Front Street is traditionally the site of a major tourist attraction, the annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival. One glance at the construction proves that having a parade on the street in its current condition would be problematic. Bricks and concrete have been ripped up from the existing foundation and tall yellow backhoes occupy the width of the street.

At the construction site, workers in orange safety vests call out to each other over the whirring engines and beeping trucks backing up. First, Bell's crew removes the bricks and transports them to a cleaning area. The workers install new drain lines, which will run underground to a 54-inch drain that empties into the riverbank. After the installation is complete, the crew will layer limestone, concrete and sand before returning the 104-year-old bricks to the road. The Lafayette Circle and all of the crosswalks on Front Street will be the only areas with new bricks.

Some NSU students are displeased with the project.

Ashley Schoppe, a senior liberal arts major at the Louisiana Scholars' College, lives on Second Street and said the noise during the day has increased exponentially since work on the intersection began.

Schoppe, who has worked at Merci Beaucoup for two and a half years, said the traffic is a hindrance.

"I needed to go to Wal-Mart to get some food, and it usually takes me five minutes to get there, and it took me 35 minutes to get there," Schoppe said.

Schoppe said she hopes the construction crew achieves its goals soon.

Time is essential to this project, and so far, not everything has gone according to plan, Bell said. In addition to wrecking a few homes and flooding many streets, Hurricane Gustav delayed Bell and his crew by a full 48 hours. While Bell said the storm certainly didn't hit Natchitoches as hard as other areas in the state, the power outages in Natchitoches caused plenty of trouble. Without power, the suppliers shut down and could not provide the crew with the elements they needed to work. Half of the crew members still did not have power at their houses on Friday, Bell said.

Last semester, construction workers uncovered the foundations of four commercial buildings. Thurston Hahn III, the archaeologist for the project, shows up at the site every morning awaiting new discoveries. Watching the construction from the sidewalk, Hahn hopes for workers to point out things that are out of the ordinary.

"Most people envision archaeologists using a little paintbrush. I use backhoes and tractors and bulldozers," Hahn said.

Most of Hahn's work involves urban settings, but he has never executed a project quite like this one before. Aside from the building foundations, the crew has uncovered ceramics and glass beads that may have been crafted by Native Americans as early as 1830. In the 19th century, townspeople disposed of these unwanted items in the street, leaving behind objects that provide insight into the city's past.

At the construction site, one of the workers brings over a rusty bottle cap and hands it to Hahn. "I'm just giving him a hard time," he jokes.

Hahn laughs, but takes his work seriously. He has been working on this project for years. Hahn

See "Construction" on p. 2

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
September 10, 2008

SGA sets tone with 16 passed bills

David Royal
News Editor

The Student Government Association met in the ballroom located in the Friedman Student Union on Monday to address numerous issues and bills concerning the government's plans for this upcoming academic year and changes to the constitution.

An uncommonly high number of bills – 17 – were presented to the Senate. With two-thirds of the vote required, the Senate passed all but one of the proposed bills.

Much of the new business consisted of proposed amendments to the SGA's constitution, which Speaker of the Senate Tim Gattie said was needed to help clarify certain aspects of the constitution.

"There have been a lot of problems with vagueness in our constitution in the past, but hopefully these changes will help fix the problems," Gattie said.

Some of these ambiguous aspects included the representation of graduate students, written ballots, and disciplinary action for malfeasance among SGA members.

Additionally, the Senate unanimously passed Bill FA08-012, which could potentially give future SGA presidents the opportunity to serve two consecutive terms.

Bill FA08-012 - along with each of the other proposed constitutional amendments - will now be voted on by NSU students during SGA elections.

President Cody Bourque explained that because in the past some SGA presidents would "bully" and "intimidate" other students to discourage them from running against them, the SGA decided to amend the constitution and do away with consecutive terms.

As a result, the current policy allows presidents to serve more than one term – consisting of an academic year – but the terms cannot be consecutive. The last time an SGA president served two consecutive terms was in the '90s, Bourque said.

Bourque said, however, that it was time to readdress the issue.

"It's not a political thing. I believe the students should be able to decide what they want," Bourque said in an interview.

If passed by the students, the amendment will not be applied to SGA presidents until 2009, which means Bourque, the current president, still will not be able to serve next year.

During the SGA meeting, however, Bourque added that he would not have put his support behind the bill if it would take effect immediately.

The one bill that was not passed by the Senate concerned the changing of the order of succession within the executive board. The bill proposed to name the treasurer next in line in order of succession after the president and vice president. Currently, the speaker of the Senate is in line behind the president and vice president.

The Senate and executive board spent a considerable amount of time discussing different opinions concerning the bill.

Vice President Mark Daniels put his support behind the bill, arguing that in a case in which the president and vice president are unable to lead, the speaker of the Senate would not have the executive knowledge or experience needed, in comparison to the treasurer.

Speaker of the Senate Tim Gattie, however, argued that in the actual U.S. executive branch, the Speaker of the House would fall in line behind the president and vice president.

After several minutes of discussion and debate, which also included NSU students in attendance, senators called a motion to previous question, or a motion to immediately end discussion and vote.

One SGA senator, who wished to remain unnamed, explained that this action was done because he and other senators felt that Gattie was out of line and abusing his powers as speaker of the Senate by dominating the debate.

"Gattie overstepped his boundaries," the senator said.

After the succession bill failed to pass, the Senate approved Treasurer Lauren Michel's proposed SGA budget for the academic year.

Michel said this is the first official budget to be approved by the SGA.

Michel explained that the SGA receives its funding from student fees, which will not be given to the SGA until later in the year. As a result, SGA does not yet know exactly how much money will be given for its budget. Michel said that based off previous years, she expects the final budget to be between $12,000 and $15,000.

To avoid overspending, Michel said that the budget is currently based only on $10,000 and will allot funds to many aspects of SGA including its committees, management of its Web site and supplies.

Michel added that about $2,000 rolled over from the SGA's summer funds and will be used as an emergency reserve.

In an interview, President Cody Bourque expressed his excitement over the numerous bills and his anticipation for the upcoming year.

Bourque admitted that he personally was "in limbo" over SGA's plan of action last spring but said that after an "extremely productive" summer, the SGA is ready to make a significant difference at NSU.

Although Hurricane Gustav deterred some plans, the SGA has already made strides to impact the campus.

During the first week of school, SGA teamed up with the Student Activities Board to co-host a pool party at University Place to welcome new students. The organizations also held a "Meet Your Rep." session in Iberville Dining Hall to allow students to become familiar with members in SGA.

Bourque stressed that he no longer wants students to simply see SGA as another student organization, but instead as a "body of leaders" for NSU. Bourque added that he believes the many changes within the SGA and its constitution will help bring about this change in perspective.

Bourque said that in the upcoming meetings, the SGA will be putting a focus on issues concerning student fees for part-time students and ways to improve the Student Union, and that his group of senators are up to the challenges.

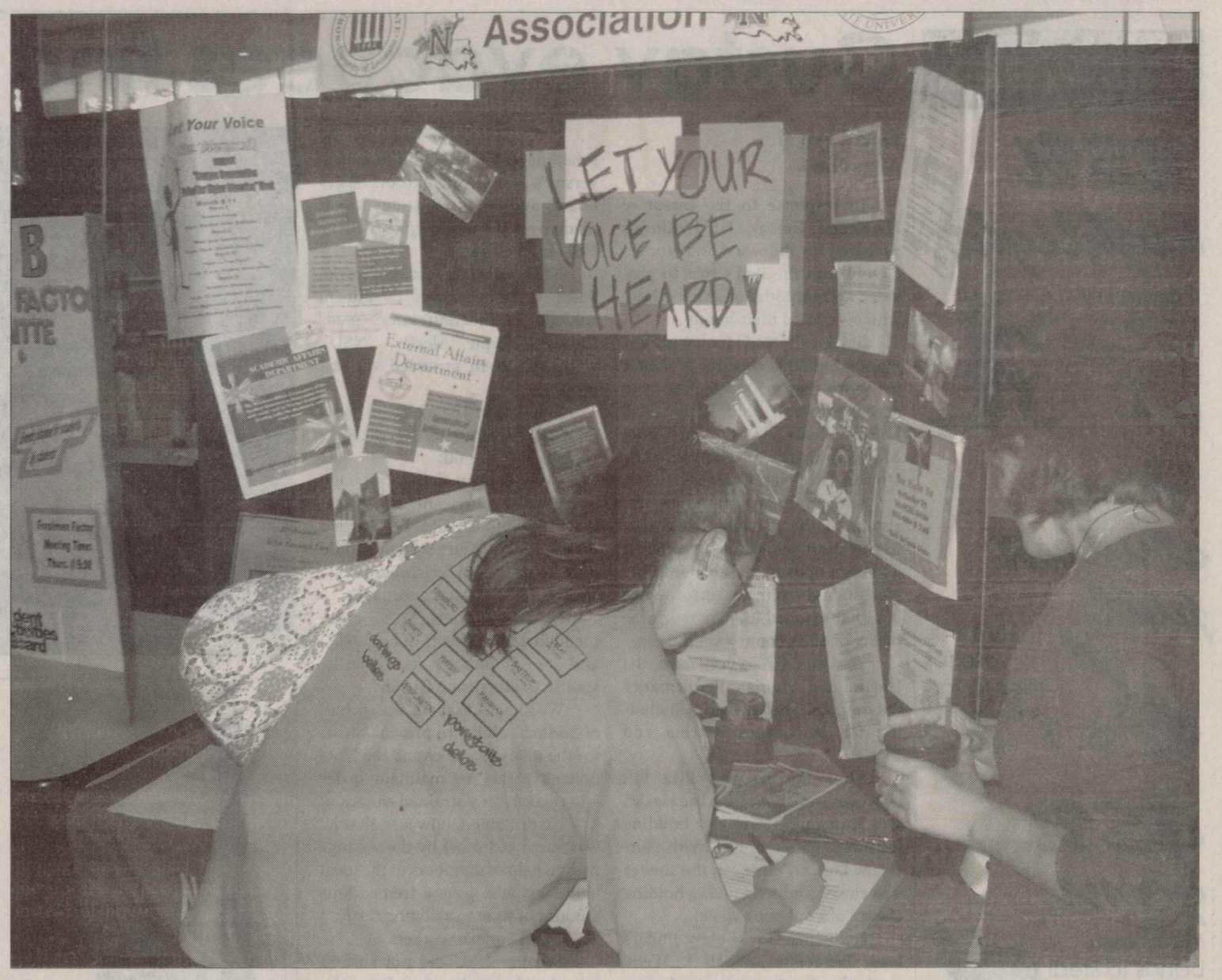


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce
Treasurer Lauren Michel provides a student with information about SGA at the "Meet Your Rep." mixer, which took place Aug. 26.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce
A backhoe towers over the once-appealing historical bricks of Front Street, where construction will continue until November.

Construction

Cont. from p. 1

and Coastal Environments, a company central to Baton Rouge, are under a contract to study the findings and test their eligibility for a listing on the national registry of artifacts, Hahn said.

"You're trying to prove that it's so historically important that it can't be destroyed," Hahn explained.

Before the actual construction began, Hahn conducted a background study to see what areas held the most potential for archaeological findings.

Though archaeology groups like "Beneath the Bricks" were organized in Natchitoches to support the project, not everyone thinks the cause is worthwhile.

Matt Benge, a senior history major at NSU, disagreed with the project, adding that he thought the city should have used concrete instead of preserving the original bricks.

"It's time to move on," Benge said. "Forget the bricks. Who cares about the bricks?"

Benge, who lives off campus, said the bricks are not as historically significant as other aspects of Natchitoches' culture.

"There are more important things to be focused on," Benge said.

The businesses on Front Street have been dealing with the construction for five months. Bell and most of the crew are staying in Natchitoches, at least until they finish working on the Church Street intersection. The workers also eat at the restaurants on the street on a regular basis, Bell said.

"We try to do everything that we can to support it, because I know that this puts a bind on their business, especially at a time with the price of gas and the economy what it is, they would be slow anyway," Bell said.

The Christmas Festival, which begins Nov. 22 with its traditional fireworks show, is the final deadline for the construction project.

Some people have challenged Bell's work, insisting that he can't finish the project before the festival begins.

"We're going to finish it on time," Bell said. "I'd rather work the long hours now instead of having to work them on the end, and being up against that calendar every day and having these people say, 'You're not going to finish.'"

Construction Calendar

• Mid-March	Phase I of project begins
• Mid-June	Phase II begins
• August	Phase III begins
• Sept. 12	Expected completion: construction of intersection of Church and Front Streets
• Nov. 21	Final deadline

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Campus police rev up for new term

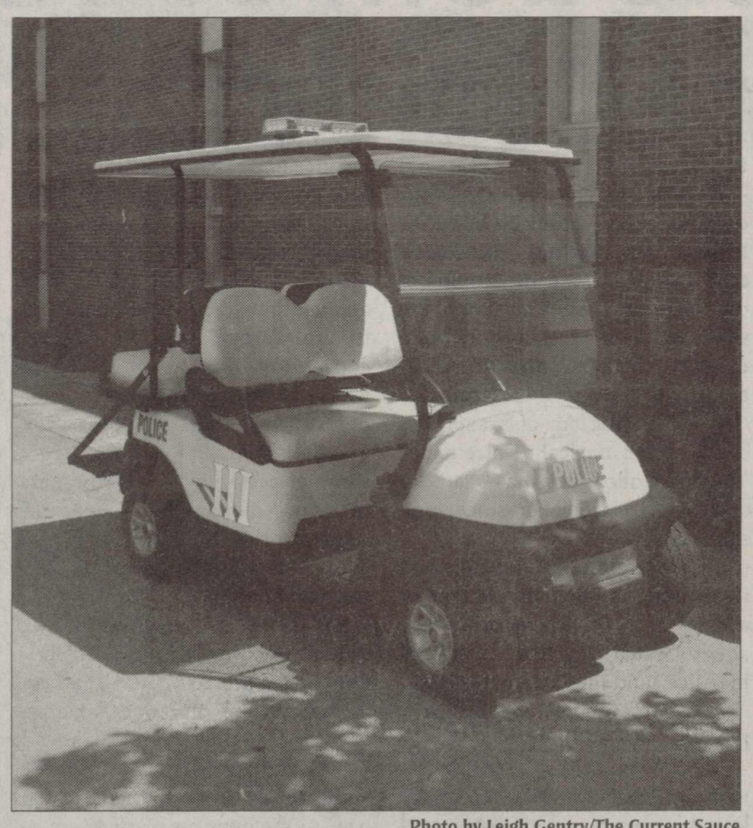


Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

University Police travels around campus on new golf carts.

Asya Mitchem
Staff Reporter

Beginning the new school year, students have noticed the University Police's changes this semester, including their new transportation methods.

Campus police are no longer using only their cars as a form of transportation, but also bicycles and golf carts.

The new transportation will allow the officers to be in more areas around campus, University Police Chief Rickie Williams said.

Williams also said that campus police are using their new transportation as an opportunity to become better acquainted with the student body in order to gain the students' trust.

Williams feels that the more students trust campus police, the more likely students will make campus police aware of issues that affect NSU's campus.

Williams believes that the new changes are in fact very effective because in the last couple of weeks students have interacted more with police.

However, some students disagree with the University Police's reasoning on this matter.

"NSU police take their job over all a little too serious. They [campus police] don't bother me as long as they don't give me a ticket," Keisha Levingston, a junior social work major, said.

"It was a little strange at first to see them on bicycles. They should be more concerned about getting us more parking instead of giving us tickets for parking in what they think is wrong areas, when we are just trying to get to class."

Williams said he was unsure of where the funds for this new development came from, but he doesn't think it's coming out of student fees.

Many students wondered how NSU police were able to afford the new bicycles and golf carts.

"I feel that it's a waste of money. It seems like they haven't used it for any safety reasons, only to give parking tickets and pulling people over for illegitimate things such as loud music," Shaneka Young, a junior accounting major said.

Brittney Hammond, a sophomore accounting major, pointed out that university officials could have used their funds for other services that could benefit students. Crime, she said, is not the most prevalent issue on campus.

Williams said the changes will lower the on-campus crime rate and save gas due to the recent increase in gas prices.

There is no continuous cost of upkeep for bicycles.

The golf carts run on electricity, Williams said.

Some students still beg to differ. In their eyes, the money allotted for alternative transportation should have been spent elsewhere.

"The university is wasting our budget for unnecessary enforcement when our university in comparison to others doesn't have a high crime rate. They should invest our money in more student parking and better eating facilities," Hammond said.

Police Blotter

8/29
4:04 p.m.- Vehicle found with gas tank lid open and no gas cap
6:11 p.m.- Red Cross locked out of Sabine Hall
9:23 p.m.- Vehicle pulled over at University Columns
9:26 p.m.- Passenger of vehicle put in handcuffs, but not under arrest

8/30
7:41 a.m.- Bicycle found in ditch near UPII
8:31 a.m.- Received call from concerned citizen reporting some subjects asleep in a Suburban at baseball field
11:17 a.m.- Wildlife and Fisheries called about a boat running nets in Chaplain's Lake
10:41 p.m.- Unattended BBQ grill (lit) found near softball field
10:46 p.m.- Trying to locate owner of BBQ grill
11:00 p.m.- BBQ grill fire is put out

8/31
10:24 a.m.- Hole is found in headlight of golf cart
3:30 p.m.- Female reports her car has been stolen
6:10 p.m.- Female reports that she has found her car in UP parking lot

9/4
8:49 p.m.- Cows are found out of their pen
8:57 p.m.- Cows are herded back in their pen

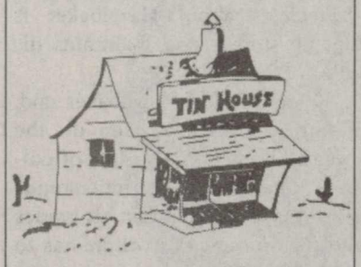
9/5
9:38 a.m.- Red Cross shelter is closed and everyone is checked out

9/6
7:04 a.m.- Wallet and phone are found and turned into police station. Reported that someone threw items out of window of vehicle
7:17 a.m.- Wallet and phone picked up by owner. Owner explained that items fell off of roof of vehicle

****The Current Sauce collects the police blotter each week from the Campus Police department.**

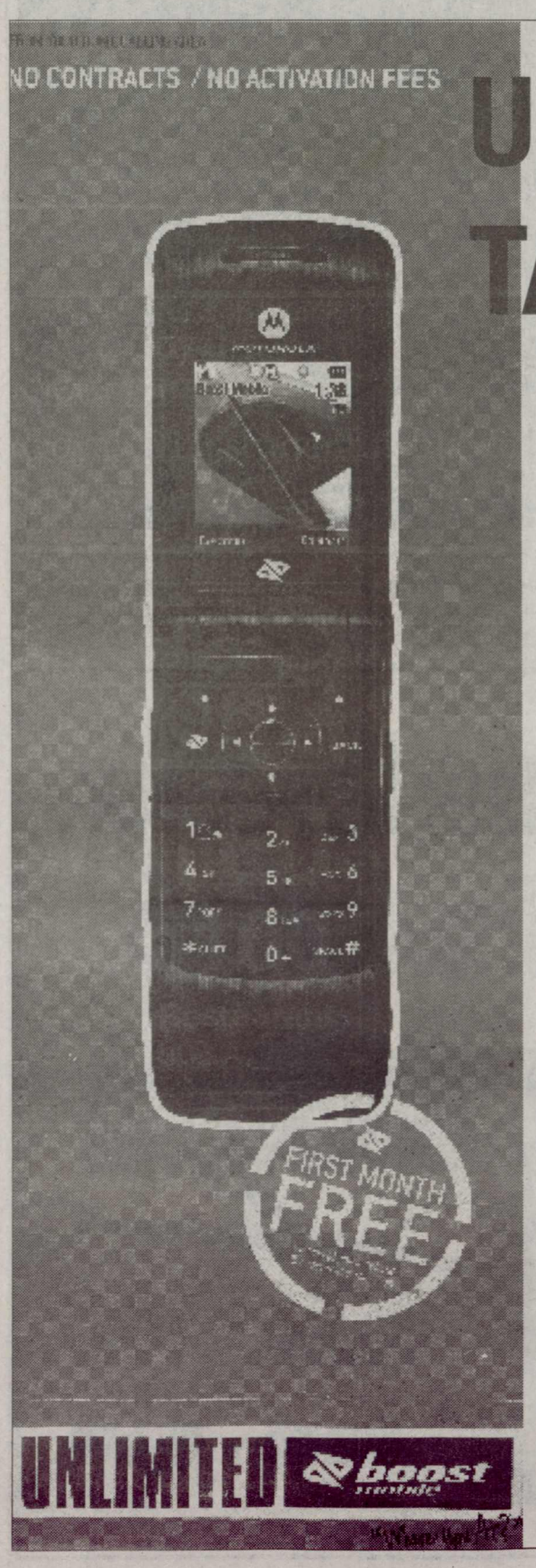
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Kelli Fontenot
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September 10, 2008

Energetic theatre student succeeds

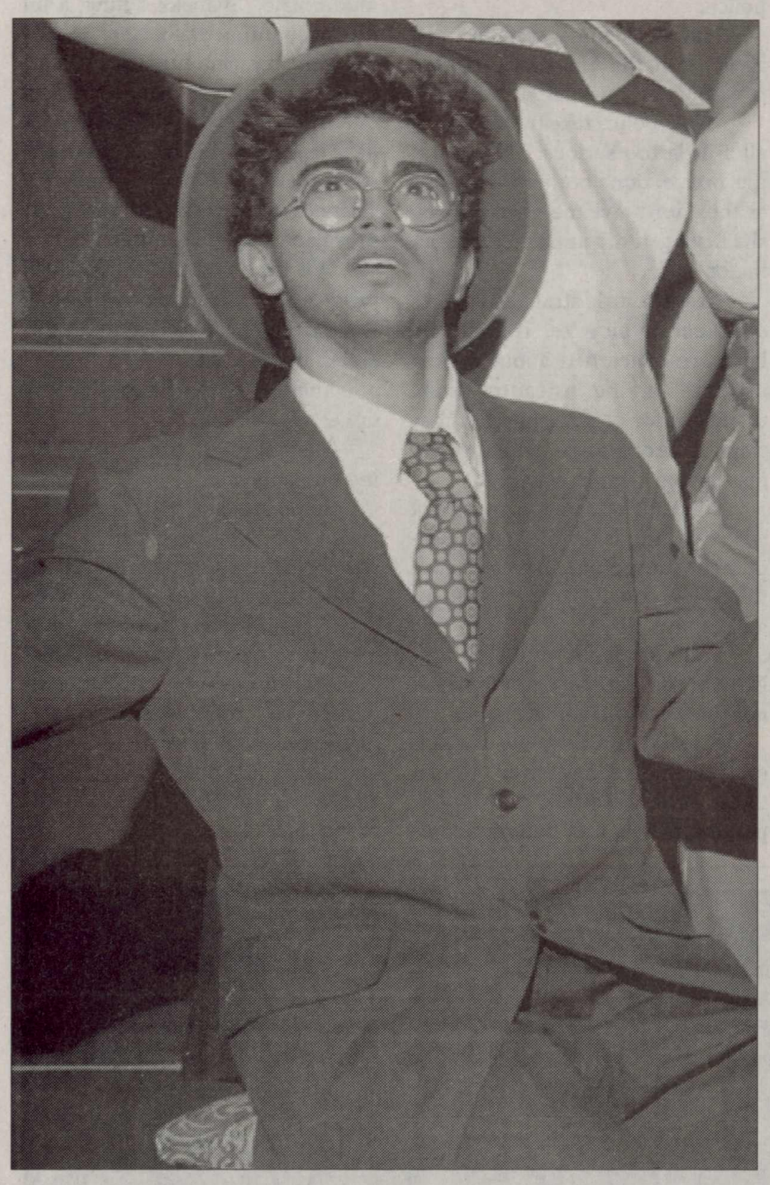


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Ryan Hazelbaker plays Dr. Greyburn in "Something's Afoot."



Courtesy Photo
Senior theatre major Hazelbaker plays the Tin Man in "The Wizard of Oz" in Kentucky over the summer.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

For many students, the college experience consists of partying, showing up to class and completing a few assignments. Some, however, go above and beyond to get the most out of their four – or more – years here.

Ryan Hazelbaker, a senior theatre major, is among those hard-working students at NSU. Hazelbaker has been in 16 shows since his freshman year, has assistant directed one show, directed another and will assistant direct "Romeo and Juliet" and perform in "Lives of the Saints" this semester – and that's just at NSU.

This line of work has put Hazelbaker in contact with a multitude of people – seven directors at NSU alone – and has offered him opportunities to reach beyond the campus and perform in the professional realm.

"He gets his money's worth at this university," assistant professor of theatre Pia Wyatt said about Hazelbaker, adding that many students don't take advantage of university activities.

Center stage

Hazelbaker's experiences have changed him in many ways – as an actor, a student and a person.

"I've learned what I'm capable of doing [as an actor]." Hazelbaker said. "As a freshman, you think you can play the lead."

This wisdom has come from the wealth of experience he piled up doing so many NSU shows and multiple professional ones.

"Through being on stage is how you really, truly grow," Hazelbaker said.

Hazelbaker said it is hard to choose his favorite NSU show, but the most fulfilling was "CATS" last fall because it required him to sing, act and dance.

"It stretched me," Hazelbaker said.

Hazelbaker also had the opportunity to play a role he had wanted to play since he was four years old – the Mad Hatter in "Alice in Wonderland" – last semester. In an interview last spring, Hazelbaker said he and his cousins would act out the entire Disney version of the story for their grandmother, who came to the NSU play of "Alice" along with the rest of his family.

The leading lady of last spring's show, senior musical theatre major Tracena Collongues, has shared a stage with Hazelbaker since high school.

Last semester, Collongues said it's exciting to watch an old tape of a show from high school and be able to watch Hazelbaker perform in "Alice," and then compare them.

"We're completely different people now," Collongues said.

Pia Wyatt said she has worked with Hazelbaker quite often in the last three years, which is a trend that will continue into this semester. Hazelbaker is Wyatt's assistant director for "Romeo and Juliet."

"I'm a huge fan [of Hazelbaker]," Wyatt said. "If I had a parade, he'd be at the front."

Hazelbaker has also enjoyed working with Wyatt and appreciates all she has taught him.

"I want to learn as much as I can from her," Hazelbaker said.

Wyatt has witnessed growth from Hazelbaker as a student, an actor and now an assistant director. She said she has seen him become more grounded and determined to succeed and that he has been able to focus his energy, which is important in an acting career.

"With this job, you have to have energy," Wyatt said.

Wyatt is not the only person who has noticed Hazelbaker's energy. Assistant professor of theatre William Perry Morgan described the young actor in quite the same way as Wyatt – grounded, positive, smart and, of course, energetic.

In the spotlight

Morgan has known Hazelbaker since his sophomore year, and he saw potential in the student right away. Morgan said he was immediately impressed by Hazelbaker's energy. Morgan took Hazelbaker and another student who stood out to him, Casey Barrett, to a theatre convention in Memphis, Tenn., where Morgan introduced the students to important contacts.

Both students were able to get summer acting jobs two summers in a row, and they are now able return to the conference as actors with professional experience, Morgan said.

Hazelbaker spent the summer in Kentucky performing in "A Chorus Line" and playing the Tin Man in the "Wizard of Oz," the conference in Memphis. Hazelbaker said he put in the work to get the parts, memorizing and preparing a 14-page monologue for his audition.

"'Chorus Line' is, like, the show," Hazelbaker said, emphasizing "the." He said it was the best experience he has had as an actor so far.

It was also a slightly new experience for him. He started with no experience as a dancer freshman year and performed in a dance show ("A Chorus Line") before his senior year, Hazelbaker said.

He and another NSU theatre student, Donald Jones Jr., were the only two college students in the show over the summer, and the rest of the cast comprised professional actors.

Although Hazelbaker enjoyed performing in "A Chorus Line," his favorite outside show was "The Wizard of Oz" because he got to cross off one of his top 10 roles to play, he said.

Morgan said that the biggest change he has seen in Hazelbaker is a "maturity that has happened," which he thinks is due to the professional experience. This experience allows Hazelbaker to be a resource to younger or less experienced students in the department, giving them the knowledge without the ego, Morgan said.

Hazelbaker realizes the impact Morgan has had on his career.

"Without him in my life, I would be lost," he said. "He's given me the tools I need to succeed."

Scholastic side

Another characteristic Wyatt appreciates about Hazelbaker is that he studies and maintains his GPA.

"I get school," Hazelbaker said, adding that he has been on the Dean's List every semester of college. He said that he understands what it takes to maintain his grades and the amount of work he has to put into that.

School is important to him because he wants to be a "well-rounded sponge," who absorbs as much as he can.

Hazelbaker appreciates the role NSU and the theatre department has played in his life.

"Without this school, I'd have changed careers," he said.

Curtain call

The two theatre companies Hazelbaker worked with over the summer asked him to return to work after graduation, so he knows he has a job when he enters the "real world," he said.

However, he's not sure what's next for him. He would like to eventually live and act in New York and experience all the ups and downs that go along with it. As a Slidell native and recent Natchitoches resident, he is used to small-town living but is ready for the big city, he said.

Morgan said Hazelbaker is very focused on his career, on making his mark on the professional theatre world and leaving his mark on the NSU theatre department.

"He will make it," Morgan said.



Courtesy Photo
Hazelbaker performs in his first professional production, "Crazy Love," during the summer of 2007.



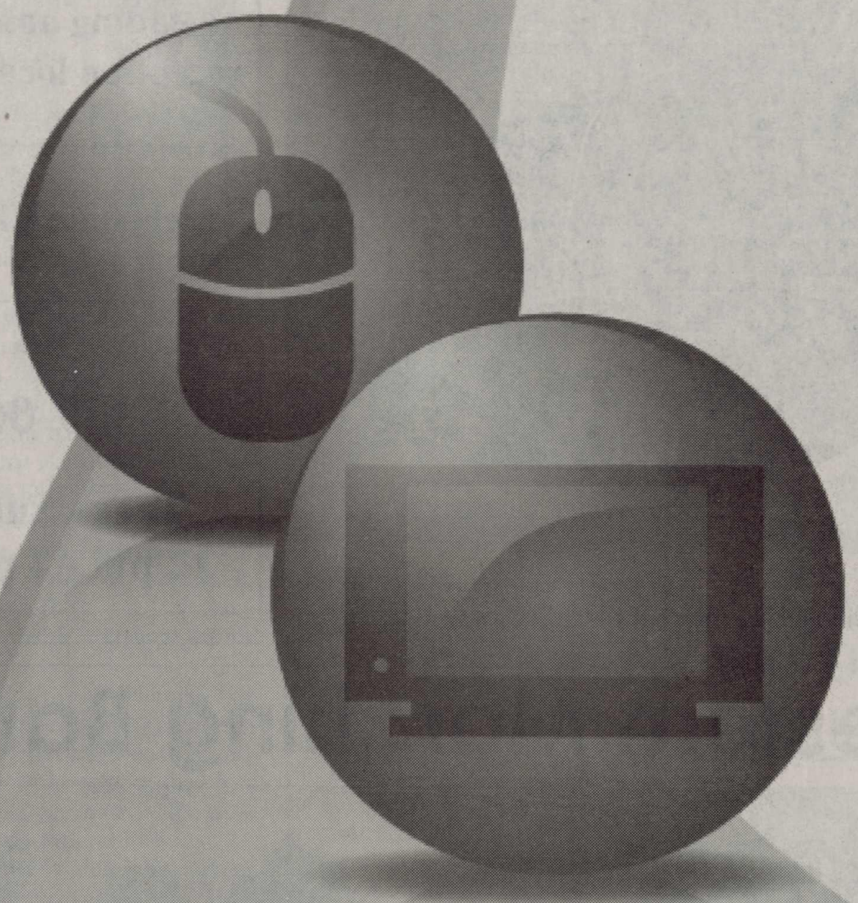
Photo by Chris Reich/The Current Sauce
Hazelbaker plays the Mad Hatter alongside Ryan Reynolds as the March Hare in "Alice in Wonderland" last semester.

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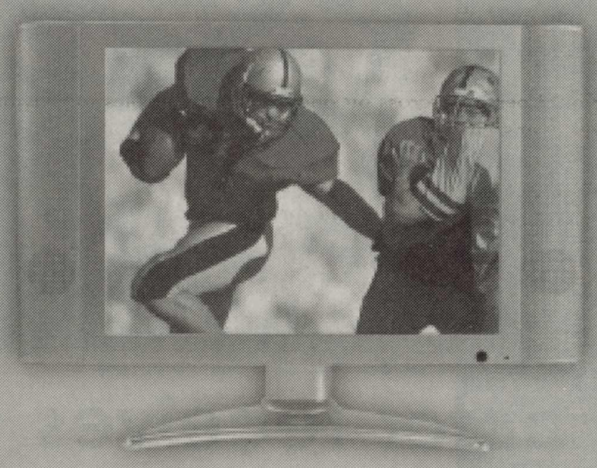
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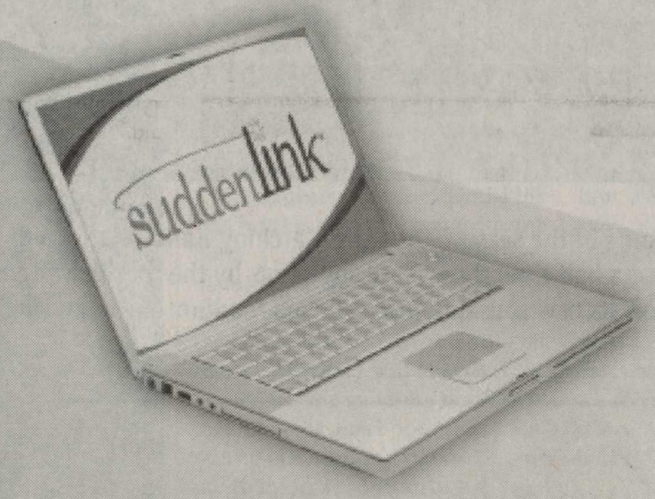
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Professor ventures out to soccer field

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

"This is not a Cajun accent you hear," Belgian native Krist Swimberghe said. "I want to broaden the views of the students because there's an entire world outside of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas."

Swimberghe didn't know what lay ahead of him when he moved to Louisiana 11 years ago. He never knew his passion for soccer would follow him across the Atlantic Ocean, but his success still shines through the athletes on the field.

Swimberghe began coaching for the Natchitoches Youth Soccer League, of which his two sons were members, and became known in the community as "the soccer guy." His opportunity to coach for Natchitoches Central High School came when the coach of the girls' team graduated from NSU. The team then made it to the playoffs for five years and was District Champion in 2007.

"It's something I wanted to do to give back to the community," Swimberghe said. "I feel that I can make a difference through my love for soccer and my knowledge of the sport."

This year, Swimberghe will be the head coach of the Natchitoches Central High School boys' soccer team. He was asked by seniors on the team to be their coach and didn't hesitate to accept. He hopes to instill the same motivation and athleticism in the boys as he did the girls.

Swimberghe also coaches a Division 1 Club team in Alexandria, which will conclude before the beginning of the high school season in late October. He admits that at times it is draining, but the key to success is multitasking and managing time wisely.

Swimberghe is also the assistant professor of marketing in the NSU College of Business and is working on his Ph.D. He moved to Louisiana from Belgium after being hired by a company in Many to oversee their international marketing affairs. His wife, Candace, and two sons, Jan and Luc, are his No. 1 fans at home and on the soccer field.

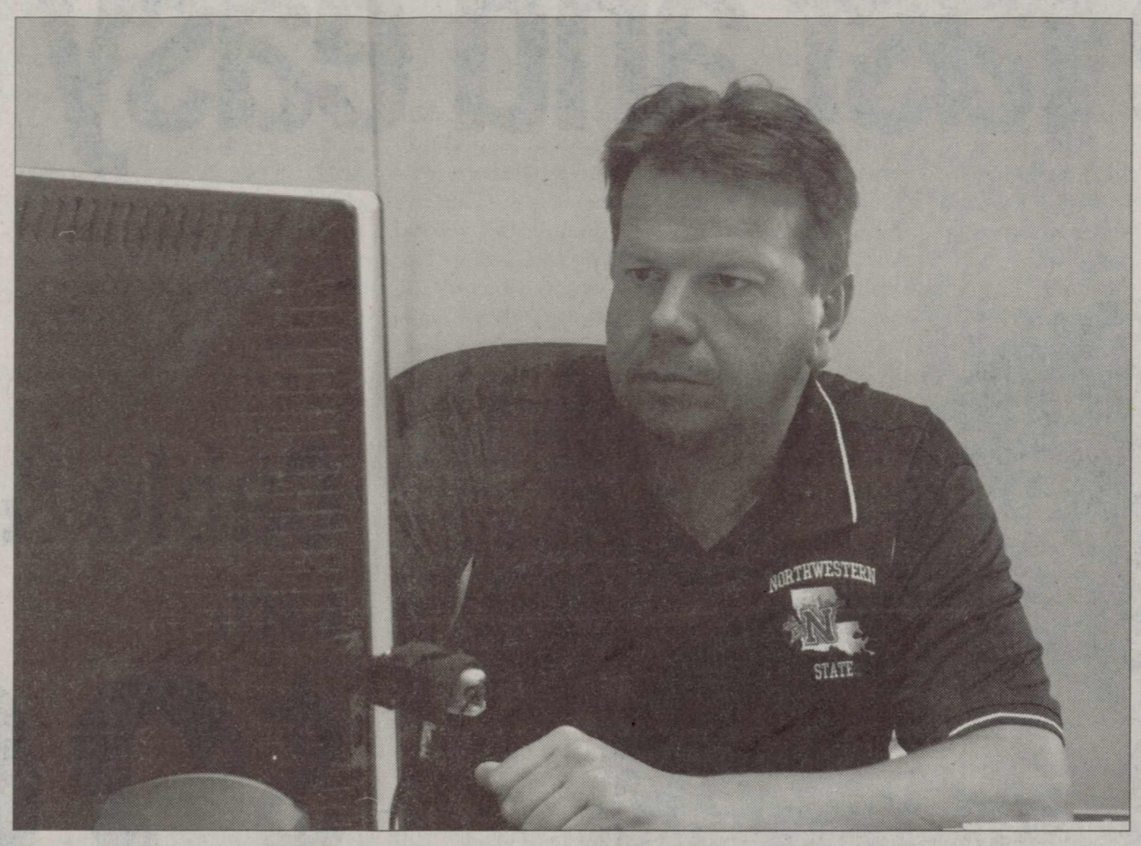


Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce
Assistant professor of marketing Krist Swimberghe coaches soccer at Natchitoches Central High.



Melrose

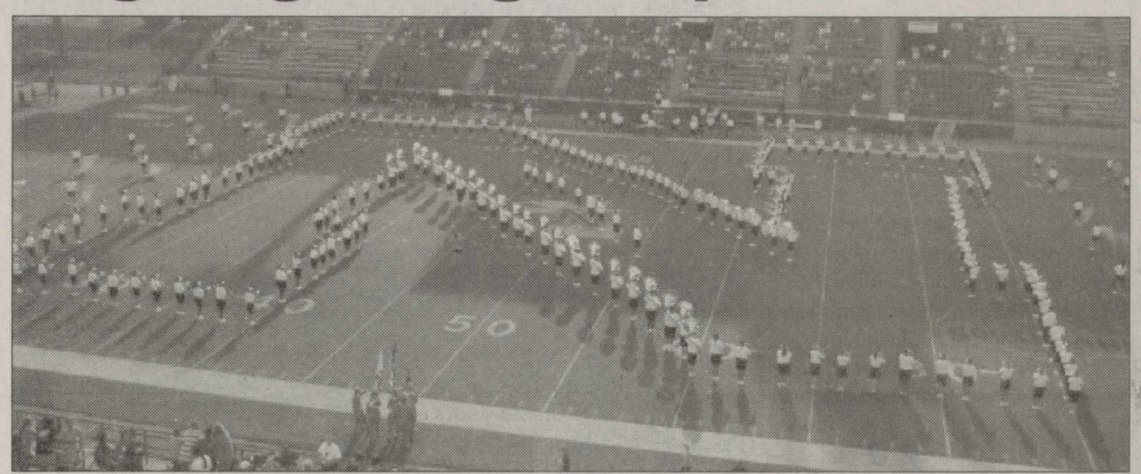
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Highlighting... Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band





Photos by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce
Left: At the first home game of the season, the SON Marching Band performs their pre-game show. They also performed a half-time show featuring songs by the rock band Led Zeppelin.
Right: The band shows off its new sousaphones at Turpin Stadium Saturday, Aug. 30.

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Guest actor receives standing ovation after 'Miracle Tomato'

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

"Miracle Tomato," an original play by Connecticut native Jessica Cerullo, drew a responsive crowd to the A.A. Fredericks auditorium Saturday night. Her poetic play shed light on the tomato's journey through history, as well as its many connections to everyday life.

The play's main character, Angelina Agnoloti, abandons her family's pizzeria and takes it upon herself to educate the people of America about a very misunderstood subject. For far too long, Angelina explains, people have looked at the tomato as an unassuming vegetable – yes, a vegetable.

According to Cerullo's research, tomatoes were deemed vegetables, not fruits, during the 19th century in a U.S. Supreme Court case. No cases since then have overturned the decision. Angelina draws attention to the lawmakers' motives in her narrative, noting that vegetables have higher taxes.

With glittering eyes and a strong accent, Cerullo highlighted the many pitfalls tomatoes have endured over the years, including recent allegations that linked tomatoes to salmonella poisoning.

Her energetic, convincing performance held the audience's attention from the play's first lines until its poignant finish.

For this performance of the play, Cerullo teamed up with Elizabeth Bigger, an NSU theatre major.

Bigger took on the role of Joanie, Angelina's silent accomplice and coworker. The pair met a couple of times before the performance to brainstorm and rehearse for the show. Bigger, a member of the NSU Out On A Limb Improv Troupe, performed in "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" last semester.

Though Bigger had no lines in this play, she captured the audience's focus with her facial expressions and impeccable comedic timing. Cerullo said she appreciated the opportunity to work with Bigger.

"She's very open and hardworking and has a wonderful imagination," Cerullo said in an interview.

Many theatre students and audience members stayed in the theater after the show for a talkback – an open forum for the audience to ask Cerullo questions and offer their suggestions for future performances.

At the talkback, NSU students and faculty members voiced their opinions about Cerullo's play, which she has performed 20 times in various cities all over the country. The talkback traditionally serves as an educational tool for the students, but in the case of "Miracle Tomato," the feedback is also beneficial to Cerullo, who improvises during each performance based on the way her audience responds.

"I would like the students to have an expanded idea of what theatre is," Cerullo said in an interview. "I'd like them to be inspired to make their own theatre, to find their own unique form of expression, whether it's through a tomato or anything that they feel that they want to share with an audience."

At the talkback after the show, Cerullo said one of the reasons she chose the tomato as a subject for this play is that she wanted a malleable theme that could constantly evolve. The play, "a traveling story of love, bioengineering, and the search for home," focuses on several metaphors involving tomatoes.

At one point in the play, more than 200 rubber tomatoes are dropped on the stage. Cerullo said she uses rubber tomatoes instead of real ones because she doesn't want to waste them, but also because she wants to make a correlation between the rubber tomatoes and the artificiality of today's genetically altered produce.

Cerullo's interpretation of "Miracle Tomato" depends on where she performs it. In an interview, she commented that each town is like a tomato in that there is more to a town than that which meets the eye. Cerullo researches the culture and history of a town when she travels so that she can incorporate inside jokes about each city's culture and current events in her performances.

The play's sparse set and simple lighting allowed the audience to focus on the actors and the multimedia components of the show. A Macbook and projector rested on a small table with a red-and-white checkered tablecloth. While Cerullo acted as Angelina, interacting with the audience and explaining the tomato's journey from South America to North America, Bigger projected maps and photographs onto a large screen. As discussed at the talkback, the images enforced the play's message and provided additional insight into Angelina's ideas.

Saturday night's audience gave Cerullo and Bigger a standing ovation for their performance.

In her "serious comedy," Cerullo showed her audience that actors – and tomatoes – have a lot to offer.

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
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September 10, 2008

Half the Battle: 'Let It Be'

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



There are some commercials that are truly a work of art. The Budweiser frogs are a classic example. The Dr Pepper commercial with the Meat Loaf hit "I Would Do Anything For Love" is also a great example of comedy in advertising.

However, some commercials fail when it comes to entertainment. I'm not even going to approach Super Bowl ads because I don't have the time to describe the plot arcs that make up the most expensive ads in television.

Wednesday night, I was lucky enough to have electricity, so I turned on Comedy Central to watch "South Park" and "The Daily Show," a ritual I've maintained for years now.

However, the commercials that air during these times are either too plain or too horrible to watch or listen to. I never used to hit the Mute button or change the station during commercials until recently.

How many different companies need to use a cover of the Beatles' "Hello, Goodbye" while people dance out of sync with random products flying around the screen?

There are plenty of songs in the Beatles library to choose from. There is a pretty good chance you can find something relevant to your products.

Viagra commercials might creep me out a little less if they could get rid of their parody of "Viva Las Vegas," which is "Viva Viagra," and use something relevant. Perhaps the Beatles song "When I'm 64."

Or, God help me, Bob Seger's "Like a Rock."

Commercials aren't the only televised mistakes assaulting my already frail nerves, either.

I watched a small part of the Video Music Awards, but had to turn it off after loads of British celebrities started telling me to not vote for McCain.

Now, I hate to keep defending McCain, but since when did the American public start outsourcing their political opinions?

If you are taking advice from the British on American politics, you need to shut your TV off and go outside. Just lie down on the ground and think about it.

The British have been removed from our political scene for 200 years. Don't let them back in now.



Comic by Richelle Stephens

Hindsight

University response to Gustav 'discomforting'

Bethany Frank
Guest Columnist



It was an extremely comforting thought throughout the summer when I received endless test Purple Alert messages, but that comfort quickly dissipated this past weekend through the events encouraged by Gustav.

I would assume that a hurricane would be considered "an emergency situation in which there is an immediate risk to the health and safety of the campus community," but I am not "specially trained to determine the circumstances" unlike the University Police and key Administrative personnel.

The Current Sauce reported last February that the Purple Alert was a direct result after re-evaluating the "lessons learned during Hurricane Katrina and recent school shootings," but how productive was it during this past hurricane and will there be any notifications for the other hurricanes potentially heading in our direction?

Coming from Texas, I have no hurricane experience, so it was very discomforting when it appeared the school did not take an active approach to ensuring students' safety.

Living on campus, I am used to random signage on our doors informing us of events or important information.

It appeared that residential life was on top of things when I came home to find a full-page note explaining the importance of not allowing refugees to stay in the apartments in order to ensure student safety, but sadly I was mistaken.

When it came time for Gustav to enter our neighborhood, there was no notification from residential life to inform the students of "hurricane safety," class cancellation, et cetera.

In order to identify NSU students, RAs did go around to the apartments and ask residents to wear colored bracelets, but the importance of this was not clarified or explained.

Still naive with hopes that the school would personally attempt to contact students, I actively checked my NSU e-mail in case the school would take advantage of Student Messenger and inform students of class cancellations, the role of the campus during Gustav and hurricane safety. I regret to inform the reader that yet again, I was disappointed.

There are always things that can be done better, and I have no doubt that the school had the students' best interest at heart during the storm. I am simply disappointed in the lack of communication.

The best efforts are lost if someone somewhere doesn't take the time to inform those around them.

If the school officials felt that Gustav lacked the requirements to enact Purple Alert, then perhaps they should have taken advantage of the communication tools at their disposal.

If residential life desires a sense of community within the apartments, then perhaps they should begin with communication.

Students need to know that someone has their best interest at heart, but as long as officials continue to lead in the dark, no one will be able to follow.

As long as the importance of these communication tools are kept a secret, no one is going to know what to do when danger truly comes.

As for the next hurricane, I hope things are better. I hope communication is fixed, because this time we were lucky.

This time it was just a minor storm, but what happens when it's more?

What happens when the students lack the information to know what to do during a real event with immediate consequences?

Shining Light

Cody Bourque
SGA President



Saturday night I feared the worst.

Not that the Demons were going to lose their lead in the fourth quarter to the Lions of Texas A&M-Commerce, but what trouble Gustav could cause.

Horrible sights replayed from Katrina in my head and on the 24-hour news channels. Being from the Houston area, I did not experience what the storm brought to the City of New Orleans, but over the past two years I have heard more than my fair share of horror stories.

It was reassuring to see so many residents get out of harm's way, and I hope that in the future they will not second-guess evacuating just because the storm may weaken.

The participants of the largest evacuation in history have to go somewhere and Northwestern State welcomed more than 500 evacuees along with more than 200 students from McNeese and the University of New Orleans in shelters operated by the American Red Cross.

I am proud of the way that our University welcomed evacuees along with making sure that students still on campus were safe and well-off if the weather would have gotten bad in Natchitoches.

In my last piece, I called for us to take ownership in our university and there is no better way to show that than volunteering valuable time. Student volunteers at the Red Cross Shelters like Brian, Ruth and Jeremy showed what our student body is made of: compassionate and caring individuals who are always willing to lend a hand to those in need.

Times of trouble bring out the best and worst of people. Students stepped up, showing our strong character, but we cannot just show that in times of dire need.

Let's challenge ourselves to volunteer whenever we can. Push back those Saturday plans of two hours on the xBox or Facebook and lend a hand at the Boys and Girls Club or join Demon Volunteers In Progess.

I say this like it's easy to commit yourself to even a couple of hours a week.

It's not. I have been trying to make time to volunteer at the Natchitoches Association of Retarded Citizens for over a year now and it's not easy to do, but I feel that now is better than never and plan on heading over there Monday to sign up.

The thing we have to remember is to make sure we enjoy volunteering our time, otherwise it's not worth it to us or the people we are trying to help.

Although Gustav was not as bad as we thought it would be, we cannot forget our friends and classmates impacted by the storm and be there for them however we can.

Through all the chaos though, one thing that pierced through the clouds is the amazing spirit of NSU, and I am honored to call every student my classmate.

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Student Stats: What is your favorite genre of music?

Justin Priola
Senior
Business Administration
Rock and Rap



"Rap is great to listen to when you want to dance. On the other hand, rock has its own sound. Its great to hear it when you're working out and just getting your spirits up. Either way, both are great for getting crunk."

Brooke Nielson
Freshman
Fashion Merchandising
Rock and Rap



"Rock is probably my favorite because my brother's band, Built For Speed, is, like, awesome. Their songs get me really pumped up. I also love listening to rap or anything I can dance to! Rap music gets me excited."

Justin McLain
Sophomore
Criminal Justice
Rock



"When I'm in the gym and want to reach my maximum intensity, rock in what gets me there. It pushes me to push my limits everyday. As far as what I like playing during my workout sessions, rock is my genre."

Caitlin Cunningham
Freshman
Business Administration
Rock and Rap



"Rock is definitely my favorite because of the band Hinder. They are my favorite band. When I am in a bad mood, I like to listen to rap because it makes me want to dance and dancing puts me in the best mood."

Oscar Williams, III
Senior
Health and Human Performance
Rap/R&B



"These are my favorite genres of music because it can relax your mind and lift you up at the same time."

There are online polls as well! Go to www.thecurrentsauce.com and vote!

The online results for this poll:
Country: 33%
Rap: 25%
Rock: 17%
Classic Rock: 17%
Techno: 8%
Classical: 0%
Jazz: 0%

Fletcher Jonson
Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editors
September 10, 2008

'Da Bears' too much for Demons

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

NSU returned to Natchitoches after a disappointing 51-6 runaway loss to the Big 12's Baylor Bears. The blend of the spread offense and Robert Griffin's lightning-fast speed proved to be too much for the Purple Swarm defense.

"They played well, the quarterback was everything we expected, and they made a lot of plays. We didn't," head coach Scott Stoker said.

"We missed a great chance on the second play of the game and that set the tone for the way we played in the first quarter."

Griffin's speed allowed him to easily escape Demon defenders, throwing touchdown passes of 49, 32 and 47, tallying 297 yards through the air. He also ran for 42 yards, including a 3-yard touchdown scamper.

Griffin, whose older sister DeJon throws discus for NSU's track and field team, placed third in the NCAA 400-meter hurdles championship in May.

NSU's defense struggled from the start, giving up 203 yards and 23 points in the first quarter alone.

Senior kicker Robert Weeks scored the first and only points for the Demons in the second quarter with field goals from 30 and 31.

The Demons' offense never found its groove, amassing only 190 yards of offense on 70 plays. Baylor gained 537 yards on 65 plays.

"Offensively, we were very inconsistent and not very good overall. Defensively, we had a bad game. But Baylor had a lot to do with that. ...," Stoker said. "We take the tape, we learn from what we see, and we turn the page and get ready for a big game next Saturday."

The Demons' loss puts both teams at 1-1 for the season. NSU is now preparing for SWAC member Grambling State, who will travel to Turpin Stadium on Saturday.

"From the day the contract got done, this has been one of those games everybody has been looking forward to," Stoker said. "Now it's time to have a great week getting ready and to go out there Saturday afternoon and play like we're capable."

The game has been moved from 6 p.m. to 2 p.m. Grambling is also 1-1, coming off a 29-0 victory over Alcorn State.

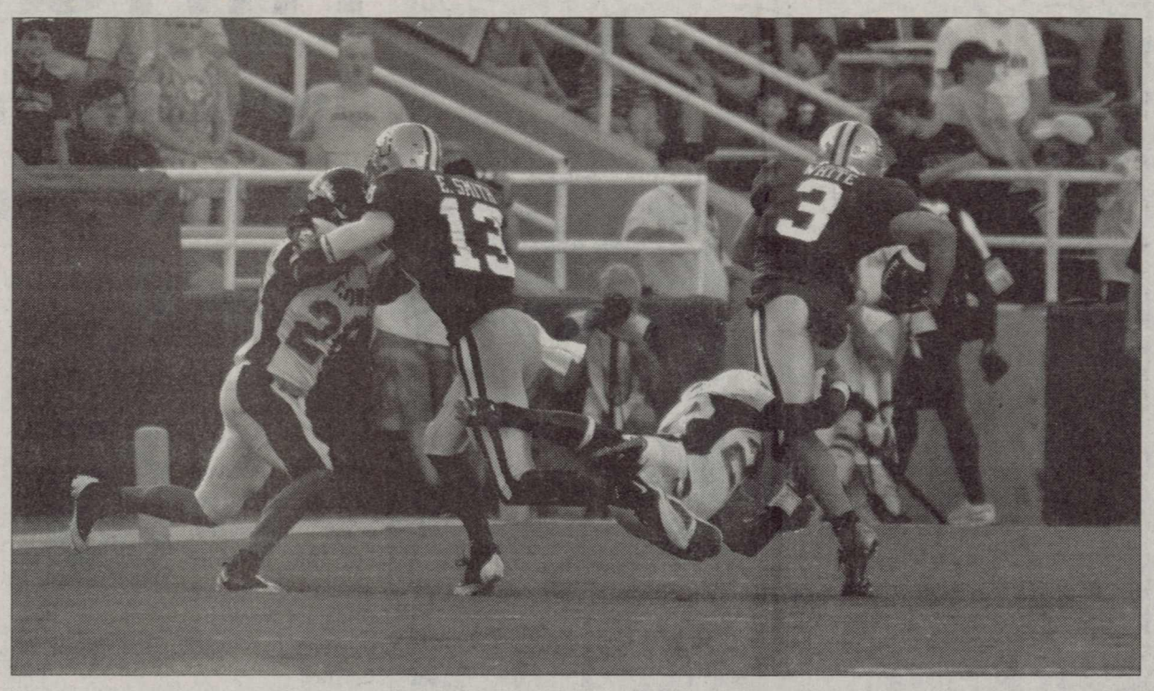


Photo by Chris Reich/The Current Sauce
Two Demon defenders battle the Baylor Bears at Saturday's game in Waco, Texas.

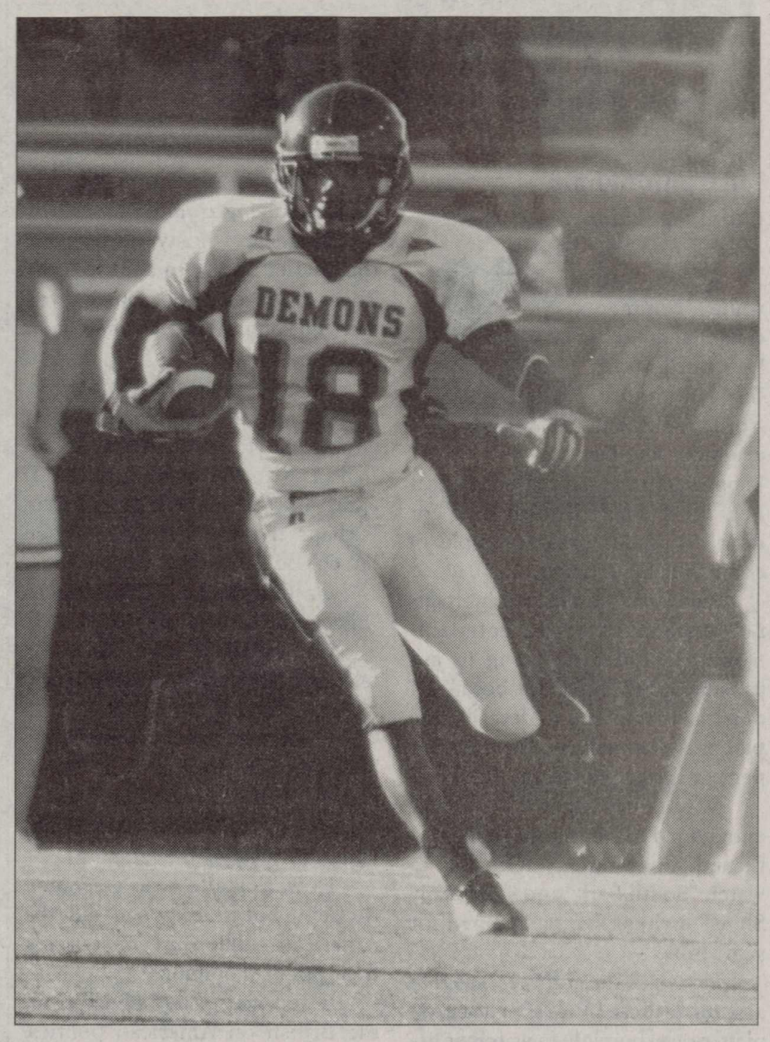


Photo by Chris Reich/The Current Sauce
Wide receiver Calvin Stoker III (18) dashes toward the end zone.

BS'ing with the Bull: Loyalty misplaced

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

I figure when you write an opinionated column there is a point in time where you will make some people mad.

For me, this could very well be that column that upsets people.

I want to start by saying, how dare we? Yes, me included. By now, I'm fairly sure that everyone knows that the NSU football team is playing Grambling State University this Saturday at 2 p.m. The time was changed from 6 p.m. so the GSU band would have more time to travel to Jacksonville, Fla., so they can perform for the Jaguars - yes, the NFL team. Now, this is not my problem.

The part I have a problem with is the fact that because the GSU marching band is coming to play here at NSU, everyone and his mother wants to come watch.

It has gotten so bad that Monday morning I got a phone call from Assistant Marketing Director Brian Seiler, who told me students would have to go to the athletic fieldhouse to get tickets.

Each student must present their student IDs to get their tickets, free of charge.

The heads of state, as far as the athletic venues are concerned, are so worried about the amount of people coming to watch GSU's band that it has put them on alert level 11.

Now trust me, I fall into the category of people coming to watch GSU's band, but I also show up every Saturday to watch our band perform.

What most people don't understand is that NSU has the fifth best band in America according to college on the record (www.college-eotr.com).

In the entire nation, I just had to clarify that. So, that's where my biggest problem comes from.

We have one of the best bands in the country and few people come to watch them perform.

NSU can barely get people to show up for games and things of that nature, but when GSU's band shows up, people come out in droves. And please don't think I'm just hating on those who want to watch GSU's band, because I want to as well.

I just don't think it's fair for our band to suffer having to play in front of no one when they are one of the best bands in America.

Also, don't forget that there will actually be a football game going on as well.

- Students need to pick up tickets at fieldhouse
- Fieldhouse is located at south end of Turpin Stadium
- Deadline is Friday evening
- Tickets will be General Admission
- Seats are on east side in NSU student section
- Game time is 2 p.m.

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Program rewards spirited students

Stephen Borne
Sauce Reporter

Now in its second year, NSU's Demon Rewards program gives students incentive – particularly in the form of a $1,700 grand prize – to show support for student athletes by attending sporting events on campus.

Executive Director Brian Seiler described Demon Rewards as a "student loyalty program" and a way to encourage more students to get involved in athletic events.

Seiler and Ryan Holloway visited Texas A&M and noticed its "12th man program," which dramatically increased attendance at sporting events besides football games, such as soccer, basketball and tennis.

Inspired by A&M's program, Demon Rewards urges NSU students to become part of the audience at Demon games.

"Last year, we were thrilled by the success of the program by the amount of students that showed up and showed their support at all the Demons' home events," Marketing Director Ryan Holloway said.

To participate in the Demon Rewards program, students sign up at any entrance of any NSU home athletic event. After signing up, the student receives a small card. Each card has 10 boxes on it, and each box counts for one point.

Some athletic events count for double points, which means students' tickets will be punched twice. Once the 10th box on a card is punched, the card's owner receives a short-sleeve T-shirt.

After receiving the first 10 points and redeeming them for a free Demon T-shirt, the student must then swipe an NSU ID at the Demon Reward tent at every following home event.

Students who rack up enough Reward points can take home various prizes. Ten points are worth a white short-sleeve Demons T-shirt, 25 points win a purple long-sleeve Demons shirt and 35 points can be traded in for a Demons messenger bag. A replica Demon football jersey is 50 points.

The students with the most points win big: the runner-up will receive a $500 check.

The student who earns the most Demon Reward points will receive a $1,700 check.

The Demon Rewards program started Aug. 29 at the "Demons Come Out at Night" pep rally. The last event this semester is at the Demon's Basketball Double Header, scheduled for Dec. 1.

Soccer, volleyball struggle early

Andy Bullard
Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editors

The Demon soccer team was back in action at the Demon Soccer Complex after a three-game road trip. The Demon volleyball team is still on a six-game road trip, anticipating its home opener.

The NSU soccer team faced off against the Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles in Starkville, Mississippi Aug. 29 and lost 2-0. Amanda Vines gave up two goals but still had a good game. She made seven saves on nine shots faced.

On Aug. 31, they remained in Starkville to battle the Mississippi State Lady Bulldogs and lost three goals to one. Junior defender Chelsea Brozgold scored the lone goal for the Demons, her first goal of the year.

"The road has been tough on us. I hope it has made us a better team," head coach Jimmy Mitchell said.

The Demons traveled to Stillwater, Okla. Sunday to face the 17th-ranked Oklahoma State Cowgirls. The Demons lost 3-0, mustering only two shots on goal.

"Oklahoma State is a special team. They are ranked inside the top 20 in the country and are very deserving of that mark," Mitchell said.

The Lady Demon volleyball team is also off to a less-than-pleasing start, losing its first match three games to two against Tennessee-Martin in the Lady Govs Volleyball Classic Aug. 29. NSU nearly came home with a win, falling 17-15 in the final game of the match.

The ladies in purple and white continued play that day facing Austin Peay State. NSU fell 3-0, bringing its overall record to 0-2. The Demons took on conference foe Texas A&M Corpus Christi in a non-conference match. NSU took the match 3-1, earning its first win of the season.

"This was a real big win for us," Demon volleyball head coach Brittany Uffelman said. "Especially with it coming against a conference rival."

Junior outside hitter Yelena Enwere earned All-Tournament honors with her performance. She recorded 20 kills in the win against TAMU-CC.

The Demons were set to face Louisiana Tech on September 2, but the match was postponed due to conditions caused by Hurricane Gustav. The two schools will attempt to make up the game at a later date. NSU will continue its season at the Ragin' Cajun Volleyball Tournament this Friday against the University of Akron. The first home game for NSU is scheduled for Sept. 16 when they host Grambling State.

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Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 ◆ Volume 94: Issue 6

This week

Vacancy

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Game on

Student evaluates emulators.



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Gridiron success

NSU defeats GSU, 31-19.



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Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Weather

Wednesday 83°/60°

Thursday 86°/64°

Friday 86°/65°

Saturday 85°/63°

Sunday 83°/60°

Monday 85°/64°

Tuesday 85°/64°

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Fast food franchises focus on finishing

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

While a Hot 'N Spicy McChicken or BK Hershey Pie can satisfy the average craving, those looking for more flavors have been eagerly observing the progress of construction sites like Raising Cane's, Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, Frosty Factory and the renovation of the incredibly outdated local Taco Bell.

The good news is that majority of the new constructions are predicted to be completed by or in November.

Raising Cane's on Keyser Avenue was one of the first construction sites visible in Natchitoches as far back as February.

Julie Perrault with Raising Cane's marketing said they are expecting the Natchitoches location to be open by mid-October.

The opening date was first set as the first week of October, but Perrault said they are now adding a few more weeks to the original opening date because of the recent hurricanes.

Natchitoches is the company's 73rd location. Natchitoches' "One Love" is currently hiring general managers, shift managers and crew members. Job applications and resumes can be e-mailed to greatjobs@raisingcanes.com.

The empty lot on the corner, right next to Raising Cane's, is still in negotiations for a buyer by Royal Seal Development. Sam Pascal, with Royal Seal Development, said they are still seeking a franchise to fill the spot.

The DQ Grill and Chill on Highway 1 South will be open on Nov. 3 according to Leslie Deshotels, office administrator of GLAMR Ventures, Inc. They will be on site to start accepting applications on Oct. 6.

A DQ Grill and Chill is a new concept for Dairy Queen. Servers bring out food to the customers, who now have the option of patio dining. The Grill and Chill also offers iron-grilled sandwiches, a variety of burgers, ice cream cakes and of course – the Blizzard. Deshotel also said an Orange Julius will be joining the DQ Grill and Chill next year.

Frosty Factory, across from the DQ construction on Highway 1 South, has taken longer to open than owner Dwane Arnold anticipated. He said the contractor started three months later than first agreed, and the business was just approved by the Louisiana Health Department.

Arnold also needed approval of the Natchitoches City Council to get an on-premise alcohol permit to allow his customers to enjoy his frosty creations in the facility, like at his original location in Alexandria with pool tables and seating.

Arnold said he was approached by a few local businessmen, asking not to do that, and was denied the permit by the city council. Arnold said he hopes to re-apply for the on-premise alcohol permit later.

"I've been looking at the Natchitoches market for a long time," Arnold said. "I was disappointed when we didn't get the approval."

Arnold said he hopes the Frosty Factory will open around Thanksgiving. They will be looking to hire more staff around that time.

"I believe in hiring college kids because they have a goal in mind," Arnold said. "They work hard, and I try to stick with that."

As for the Frosty Factory sign that has been lit up day and night, Arnold said that was the fault of the electrician who installed it, and he plans to have it turned off soon.

The office of B&G Food Enterprises, that operates Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut franchises in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, said the Natchitoches Taco Bell renovation is more than halfway complete.

The office gave no specific date for the Natchitoches Taco Bell opening because of the hurricanes, but said construction should be completed by the end of the month.

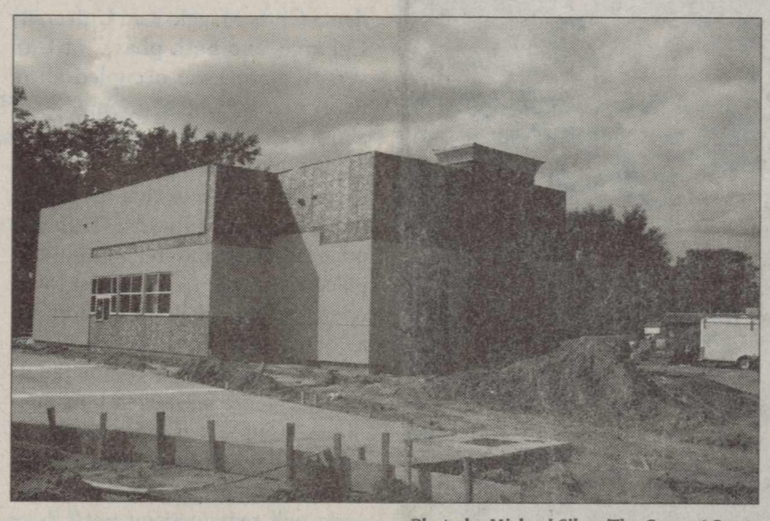


Photo by Michael Silver/The Current Sauce

The new Dairy Queen Grill and Chill is being built next to Popeye's on South Drive.



Photo Illustration by Michael Silver/The Current Sauce

The new design for Dairy Queen offers the option of patio dining. This illustration represents a photo of the plans.

Expected Completion Dates

• Dairy Queen	Nov. 3
• Frosty Factory	Late November
• Raising Cane's	Mid-October
• Taco Bell	October

University Place II residents voice mixed opinions



Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Freshman pre-med student Krista Dixon unpacks her bag in her cluttered room at UP II.

David Royal
News Editor

After only a month since the opening of University Place Phase II, students living in the newest on-campus residence have already begun gauging their opinion concerning the quality their stay.

Residents have experienced everything from faulty keys to unfinished rooms, but students like junior health and exercise science major Eddie Higginbotham said the minor problems he has experienced are "completely understandable."

Higginbotham lived in the original phase of University Place for his first two years at NSU and now lives in the newest phase.

"I almost expected there to be some problems because it [University Place Phase II] is new and was put up so quickly," Higginbotham said.

Stephanie Dyjack, managing director of University Place Phase II, admits that her staff has had to deal with problems related to the air-conditioning and plumbing, but said that these problems can be expected because this is the first time the residence is actually being used.

Because the original construction team is still on site working on the finishing touches, Dyjack added that fortunately the construction team has been able to respond and solve these problems quickly. Many students living at University Place Phase II agree with Dyjack's reasoning concerning the recent maintenance problems.

Other residents, however, said they believe that if these problems were able to be expected, then Dyjack's staff should have prevented the problems from occurring.

Natalie Johnson, a sophomore music education major, said when she moved into University Place Phase II her room appeared to be unfinished.

Johnson said she was unpleasantly surprised to see that her new door already had scratches on it and a large spot on her wall was not even painted.

Although Johnson's problems could be considered as a commonly found mistake with a new construction project, some residents have experienced problems that are potentially long-term and more difficult to solve.

Several residents, including sophomore nursing major Jade Dupre, complained of having a major problem with insects living both in and outside of their rooms.

Dupre explained that her insect problem was so severe that there were even insects in her bath towel.

"I had to shake them out," Dupre said.

Additionally, other residents said that they have problems with the lack of space in desired areas of the room, which is brought on by the modified floor plan, and the echoes and undesirable atmosphere created by the absence of carpet in all rooms – University Place Phase I had both carpet and tile floors.

Krista Dixon, a freshman pre-med student at the Louisiana Scholars' College, said she was under the impression that she would have more room and storage space.

Unlike the older phase of University Place, a nightstand is not provided for the residents in the new phase and Dixon said the modified floor plan makes it more difficult to fit all of her belongings in her room.

As a result, Dixon said she was forced to send some of her belongings back to her parents' home in Westlake.

In reference to the decision not to install carpet, sophomore criminal justice major Janay Fisher said officials over University Place Phase II should have made wiser choices.

"The officials should be adding new features instead of taking them away," Fisher said.

Despite these problems, many residents said that they still do not regret moving into the new phase.

Cavante Moore, a sophomore computer information systems major, lived in Boozman Hall before moving into the new phase of University Place this year and said that Dyjack and her staff have definitely met his expectations.

"My experience at UPII has been 100 percent better than at Boozman," Moore said.

Moore explained that for him the best part of the new housing is the fact that he no longer has to share a bathroom.

Other aspects of the new phase that the residents praised included the new furniture and the fact that its location is closer to the classrooms.

Luke Williams, a sophomore liberal arts major at the Scholars' College, said the prices that University Place charge are too high and compared the company to a monopoly.

The majority of the residents interviewed agreed that a primary deciding factor as to whether or not they will pursue moving off campus next year is the price of University Place Phase II – the monthly rent for a double room at University Place with a nine-month lease is $458 without a meal plan.

Williams's opinion mirrored many other residents' opinions, which could illuminate a problem for University Place in the future when it comes time for the residents to renew their leases.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
September 17, 2008

Varnado's rooms occupied once again

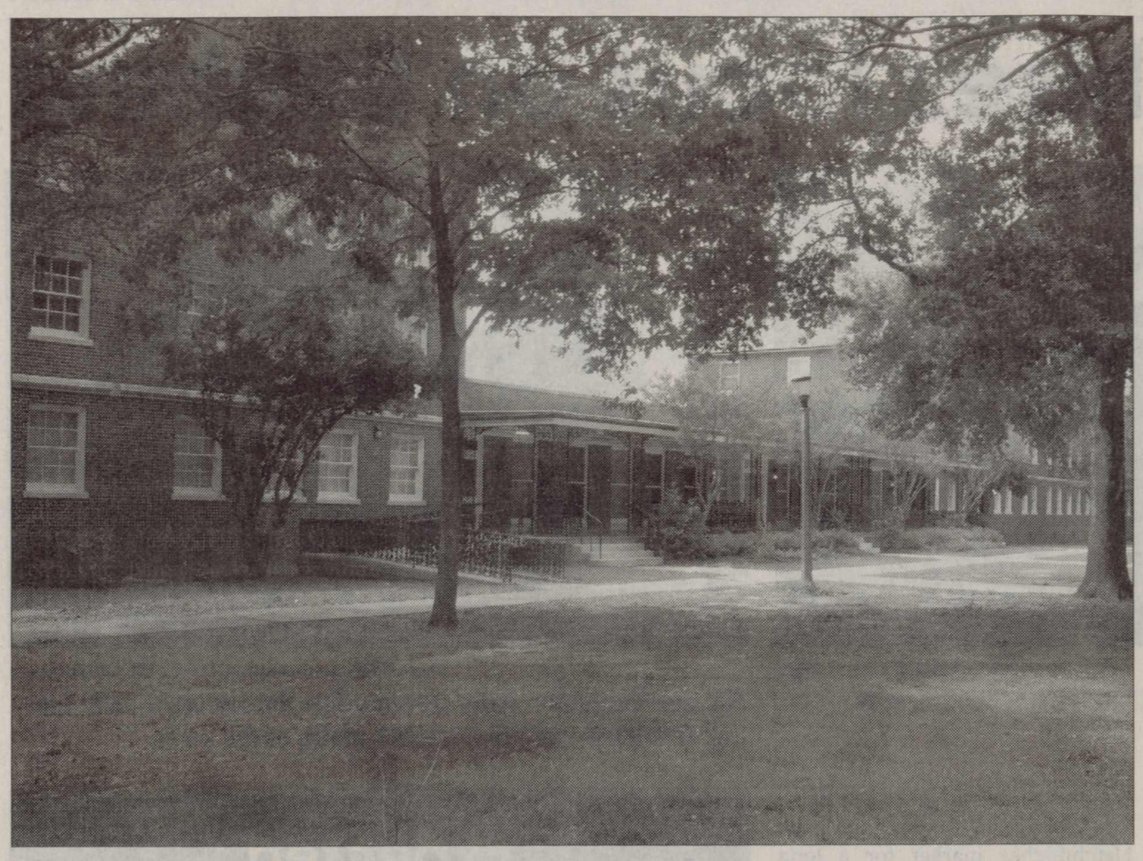


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Varnado Hall is currently being used as temporary housing for students who could not find any available rooms in University Columns or either phase of University Place. Dean of Students Chris Maggio said students in Varnado may have permanent rooms by the start of next semester.

David Royal
News Editor

Due to an increase in enrollment this semester, Dean of Students Chris Maggio said University Columns and both phases of University place have occupied all of their rooms, which originally left about 125 students without a place to stay this semester.

In response to this overbooking, Maggio said that NSU officials believed it would be in the displaced students' best interest to reopen Varnado Hall – the traditional dorm-style housing was closed last semester as NSU completed its transition into privatized housing.

Although it is only meant to serve as a temporary home for students, Maggio explained that Varnado will remain open until there is enough room in the privatized housing for students.

"If they remain full then we will stay committed to keeping Varnado open," Maggio said.

Because this is the inaugural year for complete privatized housing at NSU, Maggio said NSU officials prepared for scenarios such as this one and said that Varnado had already been designated as a reserve housing facility.

Officials at NSU became aware of the overpopulation late this past summer as numerous students applied for on-campus housing.

Since such a large number of students turned in their housing applications past the due date, NSU officials were unable to provide those students with the housing they requested, Maggio said.

Maggio said his staff began informing students that there were no rooms available about a week before classes began.

The students staying in Varnado this semester are paying significantly more to live there, however, in comparison to last semester's prices. In fact, Maggio said students in Varnado are paying the same rate as a double occupancy room in University Place Phase II.

Although he admits the quality of the housing at Varnado is not nearly as great as the new phase of University Place, Maggio said students are paying the same rate because the students had already signed a lease for the privatized housing.

Maggio added that NSU officials originally offered the students without rooms the choice of canceling their lease and moving off campus.

Many of the students living in Varnado, however, said that finding off-campus housing on such short notice was unfeasible, and being charged the same rate as the newer rooms in University Place is unfair.

Freshman nursing major Jordan Knight explained that he dislikes having to pay such high prices for housing that he does not consider to be that nice.

"How do the prices make me feel? Basically, I'm pissed," Knight said.

Other students, like freshman accounting major Genard Fells, said that they are unhappy with the situation, but admitted that they're just happy to have a place to stay.

"This hasn't really been a big deal for me because I know that I turned in my stuff in late, so I guess I can't really complain," Fells said.

In order to help ease the situation, Maggio said the housing staff at Varnado has planned activities and games for the residents.

Currently, Maggio said there are around 80 students living in Varnado, and he expects the housing problem to be completely alleviated by the spring semester.

Chaplain's Lake construction captures community's focus

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Chaplain's Lake, a body of water once admired for its aesthetic appeal, was drained over the summer, and the city has now finalized the rest of the construction plans. The recent activity in the now-empty basin near the north end of the lake has caught the community's attention.

For the past two weeks, a CAT marsh buggy has been treading through the muddy remains of the lake, swirling a 50-foot metal arm around in the slimy material.

The sludge is actually a mixture of lime, alum and silt, according to Regional Construction owner Pat Johnson.

"It's just dirt, mainly," Johnson said.

When water from Sibley Lake goes through the water treatment plant's filtration system, all the sediment from the bottom of the lake enters the system. The water treatment plant backwashes the water, leaving sludge that is carried through a water line and deposited in Chaplain's Lake, which runs alongside Jefferson Drive.

The mud occupying the north end of Chaplain's Lake is a 10-year buildup of all the sediment that is being discarded by the water treatment plant, Johnson said.

Regional Construction, a company Johnson started in 2002, will remove the material from the lake and transport it to a containing area, where it will dry out and be saved for later use. Then, water will be poured back into the lake, returning it to its usual state.

The project is part of Natchitoches City Bid number 0464, which presented the city with a couple of options.

The city could either dredge – set up a barge in the middle of the lake and remove the sediment with a pump – or excavate – manually scoop up the sediment with excavation machinery. As made obvious by the tractors currently parked in and around the lake, the city decided on the latter.

Chuck Bourg, the director of the Physical Plant on campus, said representatives from NSU have attended meetings with the engineers and environmental consultants on this project to make sure things are going smoothly, even though the project is not their responsibility.

"We've taken a proactive stance and we want to be involved," Bourg said.

Bid 0464 was awarded Aug. 11 at a city council meeting for $256,000, Bourg said. The city hired an environmental consultant and engineer because certain permits needed to be filed for the Army Corps of Engineers, Bourg said.

Johnson's company, Regional Construction, is under a contract to remove 5,000 cubic yards of the material before the city can fill the lake with water again.

"I'm trying to make sure that we get the material out, but yet not damage the system that's in place right now," Johnson said.

In particular, the marsh buggy operators have to watch out for two 16-inch waterlines and a 24-inch waterline resting four feet beneath the water's surface. The lines extend across the width of the lake.

Wooden markers adorned with pink tape stretch across the width of the lake. Regional Construction measured elevation all the way across, then measured from the bottom of the tape down to the top of the silt. Then, the company calculated how much material must move in order to reach the 5,000 cubic yard goal. The average cut will be about 1.8 feet, Johnson said.

"When we get through, you'll have about four more feet of water in here than what's out there right now," Johnson said.

The silt should be removed before the end of this month. The lake should be filled with water again sometime in November.

Regional construction has helped out with many other projects on campus. They paved the asphalt of the walking track that winds alongside Chaplain's Lake and serves as a scenic route for athletes, students and community members.

Elisha Ibanga, a frequent runner and sophomore political science major, said the lake's current appearance diverts his running path – and his eyes – elsewhere.

"One of the things you always hear about [NSU] is that the campus looks great, and that definitely does not look cool," Ibanga said.

Ibanga said he still runs on the path, but not as often. Sometimes, he runs around the campus to avoid looking at the construction.

"It just doesn't look good, as far as campus appearance goes," Ibanga added. "Think of it sort of like a park. Would you want your park looking like that? Or your yard?"

The plans for Chaplain's Lake do consider physical appeal, though. If the city left the sediment in Chaplain's Lake alone, the silt deposits would eventually build up and form small islands and sandbars in the middle of the lake, rising up over the surface of the water, Bourg said.

"This is just to remove the silt that's in there now. The lake is not going to look any different once they're finished; it will look just like it did before," Bourg said.

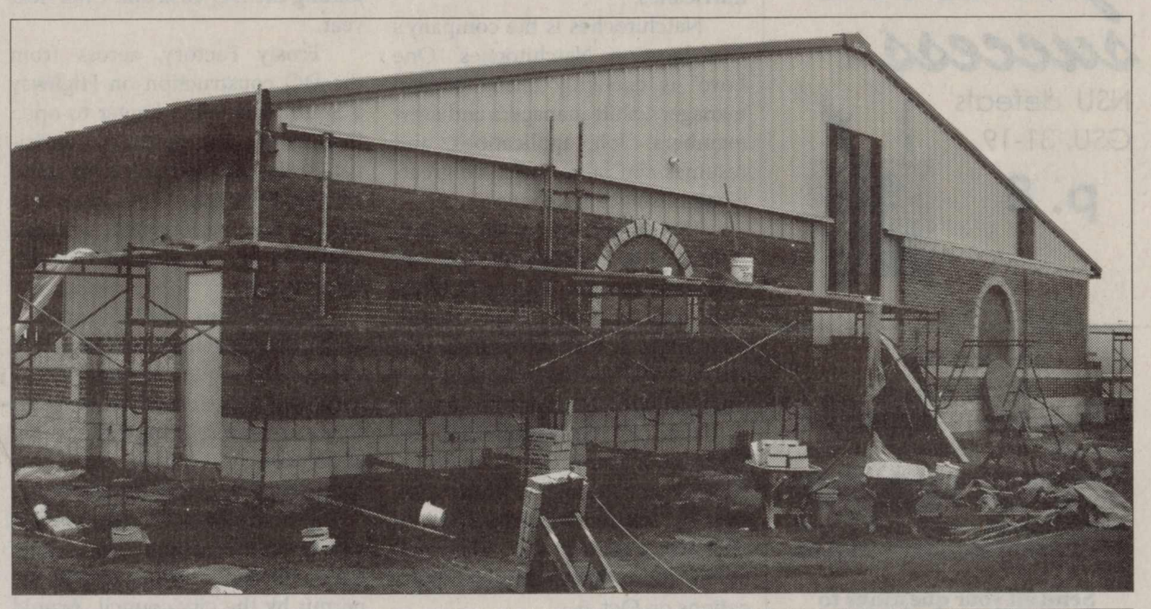
This time, the city also plans to build a curtain wall around the lake to make sure the sediment from Sibley Lake will fall within a containment area instead of ending up in the middle of Chaplain's Lake, ensuring that the problem will be easier to fix if it happens again, Bourg said.

It is definitely a possibility, Bourg said, as this is the third time the city has had to drain Chaplain's Lake. The last project started about 10 years ago.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Anna Junkins, a Natchitoches resident, walks on the track near the construction site on the north side of Chaplain's Lake.



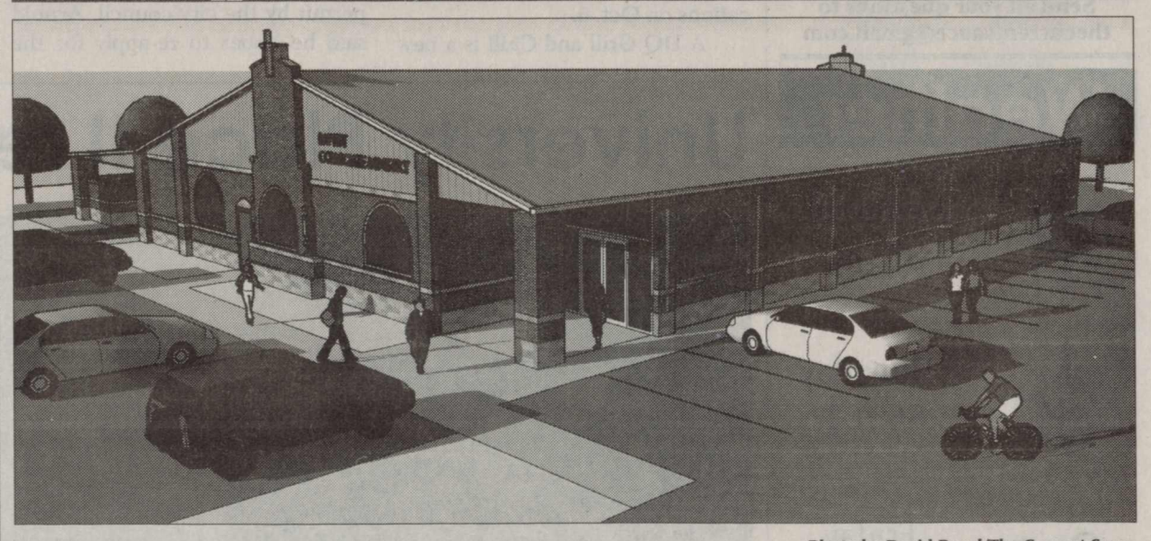


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce
Photo Illustration courtesy of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Top: The Baptist Collegiate Ministry began construction of its new 10,000 square foot facility across from Prather Coliseum last semester.
Bottom: The BCM building is expected to be completed in November.

Donations, volunteers make new BCM building possible

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

The whir and hum of construction can be heard as the Baptist Collegiate Ministry nears the completion of a new, nearly 10,000 square foot facility. The new BCM building should be completed in November.

Since 1926, the BCM has strived to provide a safe haven of hope for students, but without a building for the last four years the BCM has been functioning from the Friedman Student Union.

This obstacle will be replaced by a million-dollar facility equipped with a student center, conference room, full service kitchen and a 2,400 square foot porch.

"We hold nearly 90 meetings, and the new building will relieve some of the pressure on the Student Union," explained Bill Collins, director of the BCM.

The new building will become the neighbor of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity House. Daniel Cobb, a junior biology major and member of the fraternity, said the brothers have mixed feelings about the change.

"We're used to having free reign and usually parking our trucks on the grass for tailgates, but having an outreach there to preach only benefits our fraternity," Cobb said.

Both parties feel they can benefit from each other.

Outside support and volunteerism have played a major role in the reality of the new building. Starting out with an $800,000 budget, accommodating the projected million-dollar price tag seemed strenuous, Collins said.

However, the BCM soon attained about $200,000 in free labor from student workers and retired members of Louisiana Baptist Builders who specialize in projects such as this.

Now work can continue stress-free to reach the intended November 2008 completion.

Collins and his wife Phyllis are glad to commandeer a project open to all NSU students providing Bible studies, worship, dramatizations and other activities.

After opposition like hurricanes and the rise and fall of the economy delaying construction, Collins is at ease just to know that the foundations have been laid for a place he's hoped for for many years.

"I'm happy that we'll have a place for the students to feel at home and worship."

With the BCM's new location almost completed, the Student Union will soon have the opportunity to host additional functions.

David Royal
News Editor
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September 17, 2008

Locked up

Track reopens, limits hours to extend lifetime

Asya Mitchem
Staff Reporter

All rumors and questions about the track being closed to the public may be put to rest. The track is available to all students and faculty Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Anyone using the track during this time may only use lanes four through eight.

The other lanes are unavailable so that the track can have a longer life span and cut down on maintenance cost.

The track had been closed temporarily due to renovations, Will Broussard, assistant athletic director, said.

"The track has been open for a while now. I don't think word got around," Broussard said.

E-mails were sent recently to all faculty members about the availability of the track. An effort will soon be made for student messenger to send e-mails to NSU students so they will also be aware of the track's new hours.

Many students were not aware of the track closure.

"I didn't even know that the track was closed to the public, but even if I wanted to use the track I would be unable to because the availability of the track conflicts with my schedule," Jiame Brown, a senior psychology major, said.

Brown added that the track's new hours could be more convenient for students who have classes during the day.

"It would be easier for me to use it at night, especially after the sun has gone down," Brown said.

The track was also closed to secure the equipment of the company that repaired the track in case it needed to leave the equipment there overnight.

Williams said the temporary closure of the track interfered with NSU being able to host track meets.

Ruby Lewis, a senior political science major, was happy to hear that the track is now available for students to use.

"I'm happy to know that the track is now open and am actually OK with it being closed due to the renovations," Lewis said.

Lewis, however, disagreed with the stipulations that came with the new track.

"I am upset with the fact that we can only use it during certain times, because most students like myself are either in class or at work during these times, so in my eyes the track is still closed to the public," Lewis said.

Leon Johnson, head coach of the men's track team, said he hopes students will continue to use the track, but hopes they understand that the new rules are necessary in order to maintain the high quality of the track.

"I'm all for the students using the track, just as long as they don't mind following the rules," Johnson said.



Photo by David Royal /The Current Sauce
Track coach Leon Johnson locks the gate after evening practice.

Photo by Asya Mitchem/The Current Sauce
Lanes four through eight of the NSU track are now open. The new hours for the public are from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

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Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
lgentry001@student.nsula.edu
September 17, 2008

Sorority celebrates 'Delta Week' with male auction

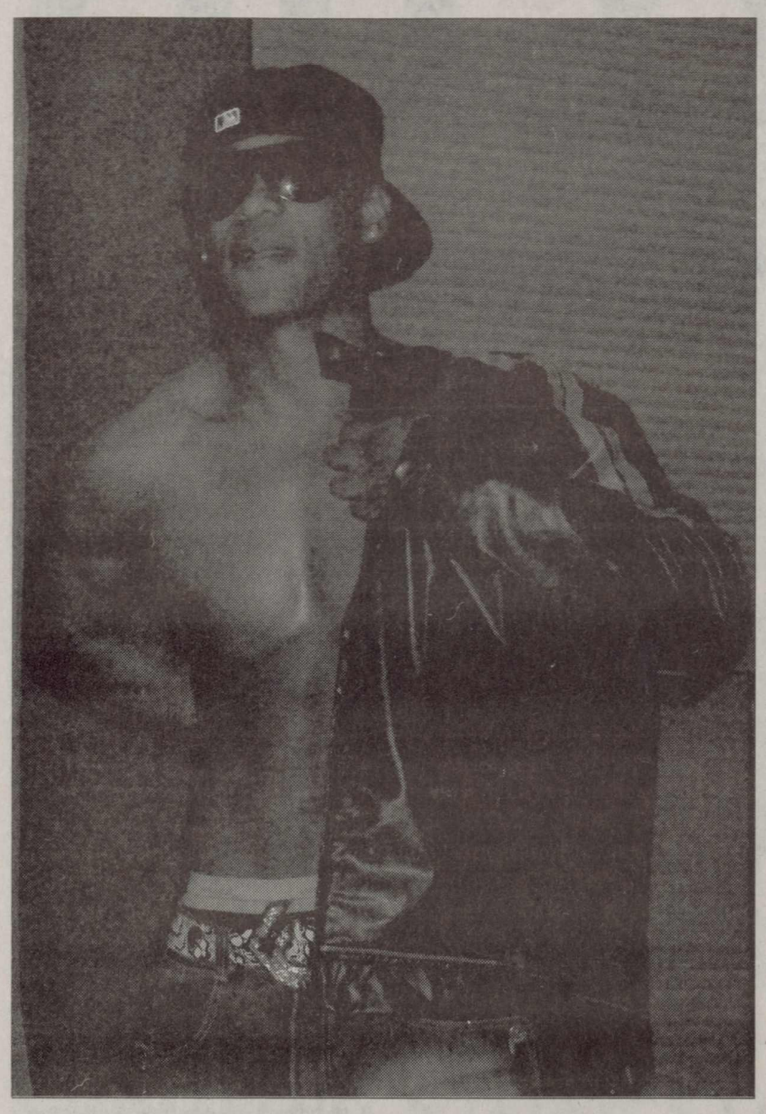


Photo by Tiffany Thomas/The Current Sauce

Carlos Glass-Bradley struts his stuff at Monday's male auction to raise money for the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta sorority kicked off Delta Week with a male auction held in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom Monday.

The first of many events planned, the auction featured 14 young men of all ages, majors and classifications.

The gentlemen gracefully made their way onto the stage and detailed descriptions about each of them were given.

Sophomores, juniors, seniors and recent graduates gave the ladies the opportunity to take their pick and financially support the Delta Sigma Theta sorority in the process.

The oohs and ahhs commenced as the first young man strode down the aisle, bearing red roses. The bidding began at five dollars and the audience quickly responded. Numbers were flying around mercilessly and the first 'sale' was made.

The energy heightened as the numbers increased and the tenacity of the bidding ladies flared. There were eye-popping surprises in store such as torn T-shirts, romantic dances and kissed palms.

The shock of the evening came when recent graduate Waylon Metoyer was revealed as the mystery man.

The audience was in an uproar as the ladies tried to trump each other's bids. Finally one young woman silenced the crowd with a $60 bid.

After the bid, Metoyer and his claimer took their seats, and the auction continued, ending with a two-for-one special in the form of two brothers.

A high bidder claimed the brothers and the auction ended with a good turnout and a successful collection of funds.

In addition to raising money for their sorority, the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta wanted to establish their theme for the week.

"This week is about the ladies," senior health and human performance major Akilah Givens, coordinator of the auction, said. "We wanted to get the ladies to be a little outgoing and try something new."

All of the winning bidders seemed happy with their prizes, and a few of the gentlemen offered their take on being an 'item' in the show.

"It was fun. I'm just appreciative of the support shown by NSU students for the Deltas," Metoyer said.

The kickoff event to Delta Week provided a chance for possibly shy young ladies to come out in a lighthearted means of financial support for the sorority.

In keeping with their theme this week, following the auction will be a workout session in the WRAC, a night of poetry and a Mary Kay spa treatment including facials, manicures and pedicures.

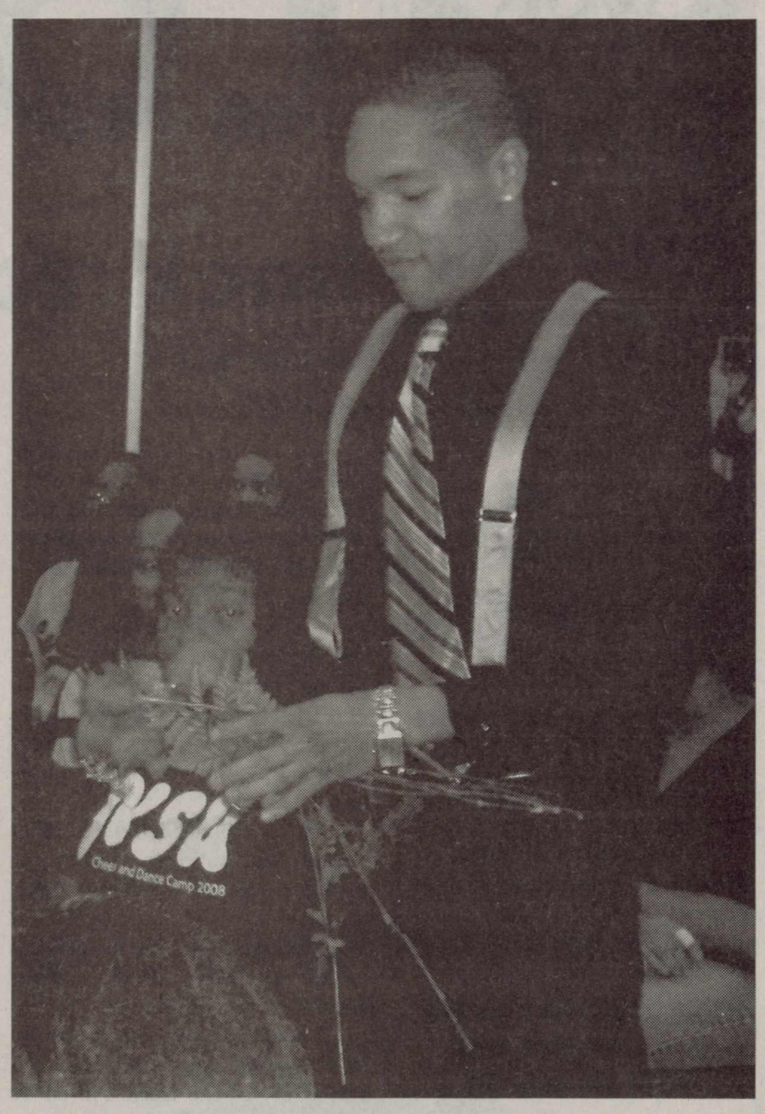


Photo by Tiffany Thomas/The Current Sauce

Junior psychology major Kamieon Martin woos the ladies with roses at Delta Sigma Theta's male auction.

Task force seeks spirited Demon fans

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

It's Friday morning and you didn't hear your alarm go off. Now you have just 15 minutes to get ready and rush out the door before class starts. The decision to throw on that NSU T-shirt could reward you when you walk on campus, making your Friday not so bad after all.

In an effort to encourage school spirit, the department of student activities and organizations has created "Operation Purple Pride."

The department decided to start up the program after hearing of a similar idea on another college campus. So many students showed up at school wearing the official colors that there was a "sea of red" on the campus.

NSU's official school colors are purple and white, so the department of student activities and organization decided to make it a sea of purple.

"It's not that you have to wear an NSU T-shirt, it's just the color we're looking for," administrative coordinator Angela Spann said. "It can be casual clothes or dress attire for our faculty and staff."

With Operation Purple Pride comes the Purple Pride Task Force.

It consists of random students each week who will be keeping an eye out for those wearing purple on Fridays and rewarding them with prizes, including candy and T-shirts.

The task force will change each week so the rewards still come as a surprise.

"The rewards are given to recognize those who are showing school spirit and a way to say thanks for doing it," Spann said.

Some faculty and staff on campus take it very seriously when they see NSU students wearing the logos of other colleges.

Spann said one student was given a Post-it note with an "N" written on it, along with instructions to place it on his LSU hat.

"If you're an LSU fan that's fine, but when you are on campus going to class or attending any on-campus activity we encourage you to wear NSU gear and show support for your school," Spann said. "Obviously, LSU is the big man on campus when it comes to the entire state, but students should be proud to attend Northwestern and need to show it."

Operation Purple Pride will be a year-long activity on campus and will continue to reward students who show their school spirit.

Spann hopes that it will become a lasting tradition on campus and wants more organizations and departments to get involved.

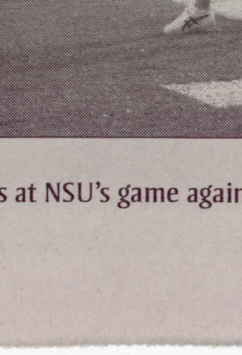
So next time you're running late for class on a Friday morning, remember that your choice of clothing might be rewarding.

Purple Pride Winners & Prizes Friday, 9/12

- Kayla Pitcher, student – T-shirt
- Ashante Simmons, student – T-shirt
- Frances Conine, Student Services – Stainless Coffee Mug
- Nicky Morris, graduate student – Water Bottle
- Joseph Evans, student – T-shirt
- Margaret Kilcoyne, College of Business – T-shirt
- John Hughes, student – Golf Balls & Tees Set
- Trenton Carlton, student – Portfolio
- Fred Terasa, Friedman Student Union – Golf Towel
- Jerry Wall, College of Business – Hat
- Lindsay Maggio, student – Portfolio
- Jessica Hudspeth, Vet Tech – T-shirt
- Kymberly Taylor, student – T-shirt
- Angie McAfee, Bookstore – T-shirt
- Jessica Beniot, student – Portfolio
- Kirk Lee, Student Activities – Lunch Cooler
- Savanna Martin, student – Sweatshirt Hoodie
- Lisa Thomas, Health Services – T-shirt
- Susan Hussey, Job Location & Development – T-shirt
- Becky Barton, Counseling & Career Services – T-shirt
- Mark Daniels, student – CD case
- Lyssa Littleton, student – T-shirt
- Julie Longlois, ECE – Portfolio
- Cody Bourque, student – Coffee Mug
- Rebecca Boone, Counseling & Career Services – Stainless Coffee Mug
- Kelly Spann, Baseball – Water Bottle

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Highlighting... Demon Dazzlers, Purple Pizazz Pom Line



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

The Demon Dazzlers cheer from the stands at the first home game.

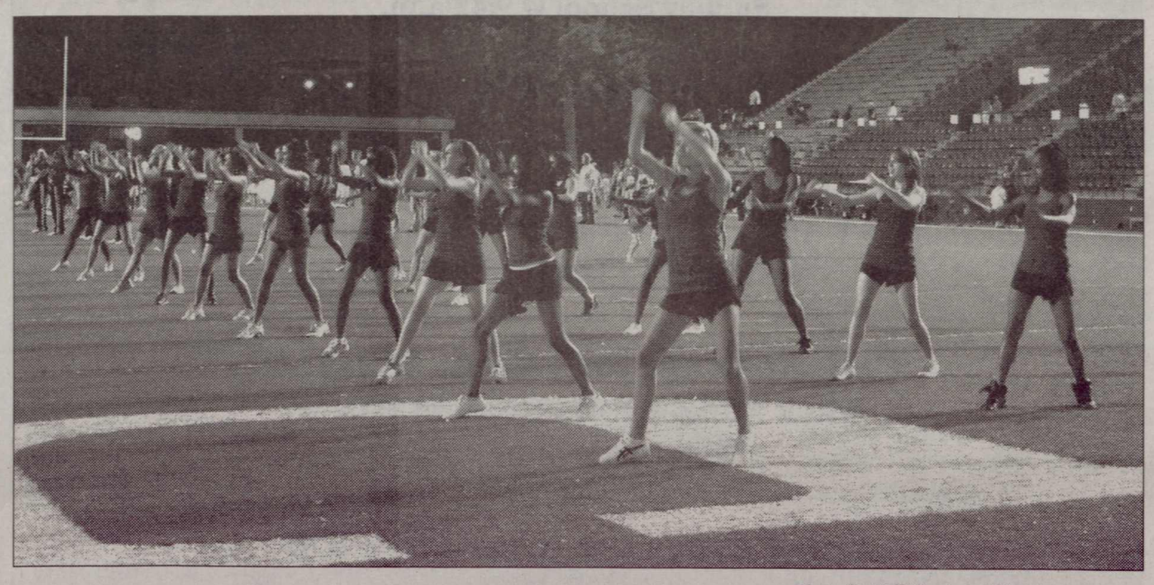


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

The Purple Pizazz Pom Line performs at NSU's game against Texas A&M-Commerce.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
lgentry001@student.nsula.edu

Public debate looms ahead

NSU team stays positive despite cancellation

Amanda Duncil
Sauce Reporter

The debate team's first tournament of the year was cancelled because there were not enough schools signed up to compete. The team is now looking to attend a tournament in Kansas on the same day.

The team's president, Paul Shelton, will team up with Toni Menard, the team's vice president, for an upcoming public debate, currently scheduled for Friday from 2 to 3:30 p.m in the Cane River Room of the Friedman Student Union.

The team's coach, Jon Croghan, and the Louisiana Scholars' College director, T. Davina McClain, will go head to head with Shelton and Menard. The debate's topic will be chosen at the tournament.

The team is preparing for the year by practicing writing cases and holding mock debates during practices.

Members who participate in individual events work on specialized cases on their own time.

Individual events are a different style of debate that can be serious or satirical and encompasses creative forms of writing such as poetry, prose, dramatic readings, and limited preparation events.

The teams hope to branch out from traditional debate and have more members participate in more individual events, Shelton, a junior liberal arts and political science major, said.

During a tournament two teams are assigned a topic and have 15 minutes to prepare a case either for or against an issue.

After the time is up, teams take turns debating the issue, which is either political or ethical.

"It's an interesting experience," Shelton said.

In the past, the debate team was made up of only a few members. The team gained more members this year than in previous years, Shelton said.

"The biggest thing is trying to recruit members because it's a big time commitment," Shelton said.

It does require some time commitment, but it serves as a nice break from normal studies, freshman member and liberal arts major Nicole McDowell said.

"It's a lot of fun. The people are fun, and they make it [practice] very interesting," McDowell said.

The team meets once a week, and there are a few tournaments each semester.

New members are not required to have any debate experience and are taught the basics and procedures little by little.

New members are given a topic and are asked to construct their own case in their spare time.

"I think that writing the cases helps you with your writing," said McDowell.

The team plans on holding more public debates and a winter theater to get more NSU students involved and make them aware of the debate team's endeavors, Shelton said.

The National Parliamentary Debate Association named NSU's debate team the highest ranked school in Louisiana. NSU finished two places ahead of LSU, Shelton said.

The statistics are based on the three tournaments the team attended last year, as opposed to the eight LSU's team attended.

The debate team was reformed in the fall of 2005 after being disbanded since 1997 and began competing in tournaments in 2006.

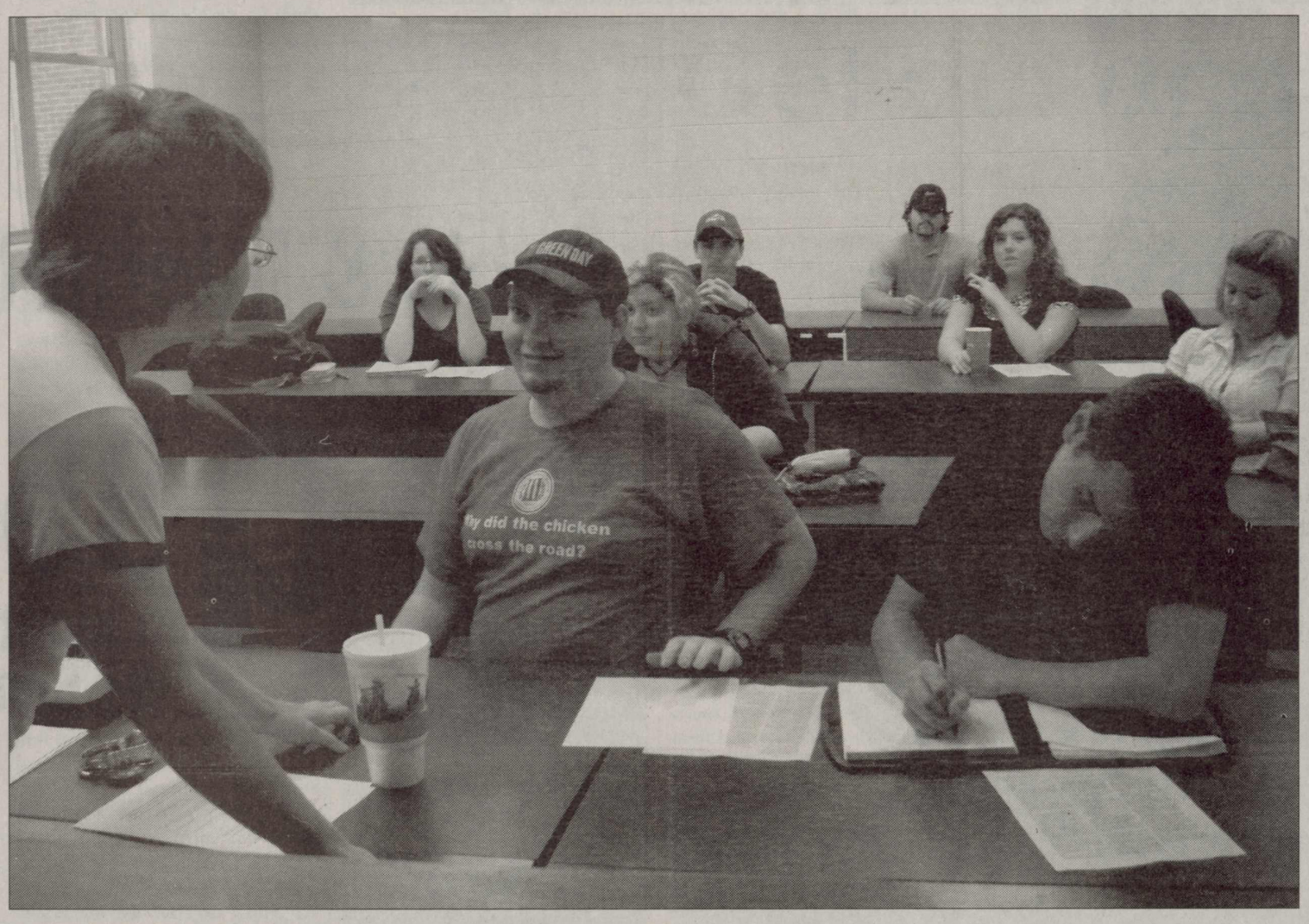
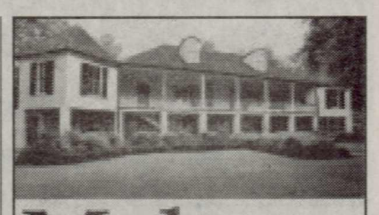


Photo by Amanda Duncil/The Current Sauce

Paul Shelton performs his side of a debate at the team's practice. Shelton and the team prepare for a debate tournament in Kansas.



Melrose

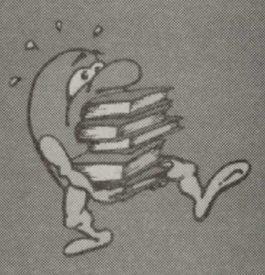
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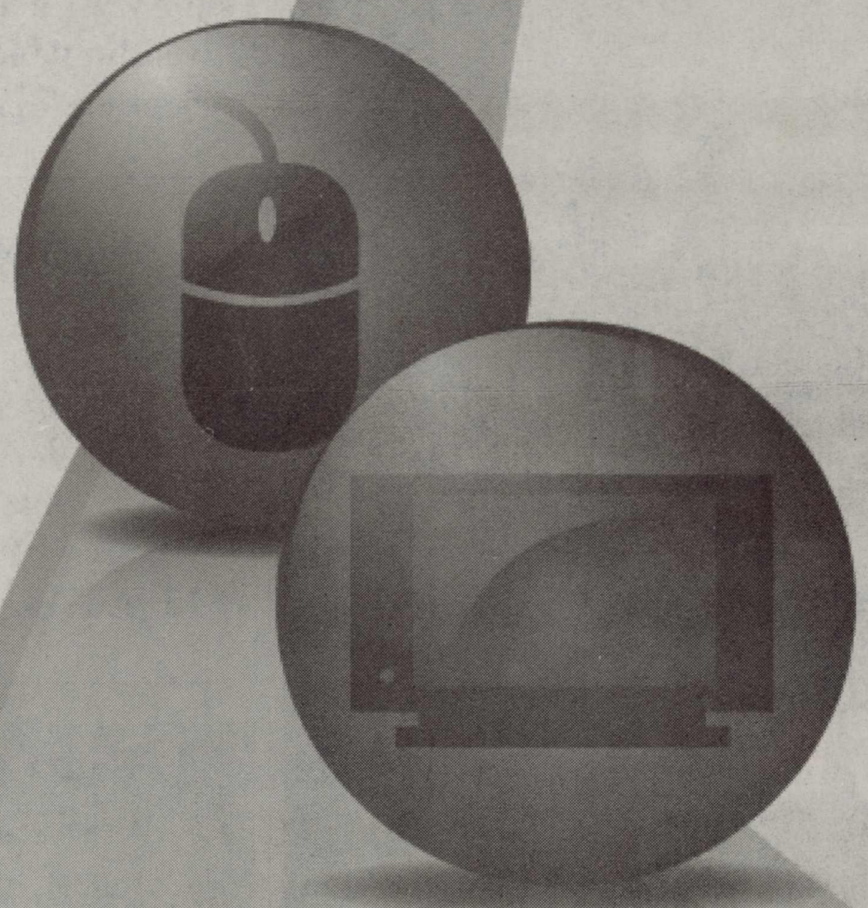
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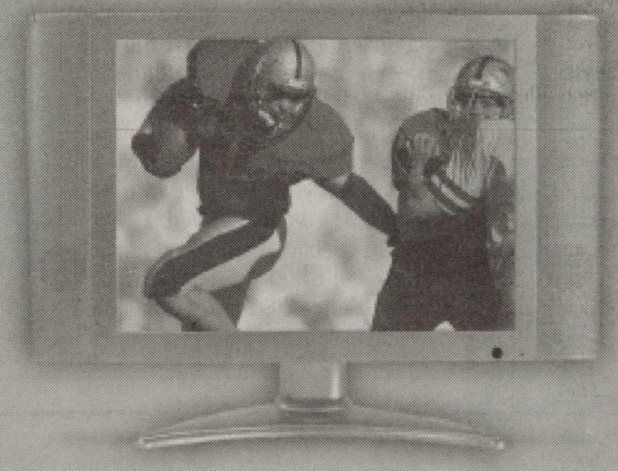
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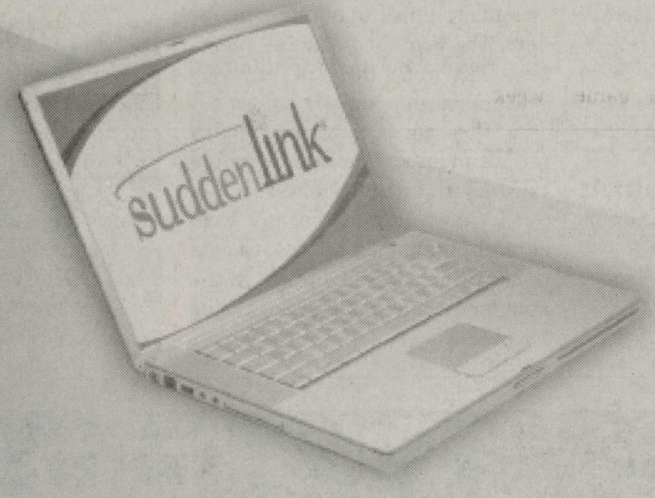
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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
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September 17, 2008

OPINIONS

Half the Battle: 16-bit to 16 buttons

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



I am not an above-average gamer by any means. I can't beat "Super Mario Bros. 3" in 11 minutes, nor do I own every console that has been put out since the Atari.

My first system was the Super Nintendo Entertainment System, known to us nerds as the SNES. My first game was "Donkey Kong Country."

DKC was a 2-D side-scrolling game and one of the industry's first games to use pre-rendered 3-D graphics.

You could get a real idea of how ripped Donkey Kong was.

A few years later, I made the switch from Nintendo to Sony when I received a PlayStation.

I was a rogue amongst most of my friends, who all owned either a Nintendo 64 or a Sega Dreamcast.

I was not disappointed in my choice.

Before I had gotten the PlayStation, I had played a few role-playing games (RPGs), but I was too young to really get a grip on the plots.

One of the few exceptions to this was "Super Mario RPG: Legend of the Seven Stars," which is one of the greatest games in the Mario series.

Squaresoft (later known as Square-Enix) re-released a lot of their early SNES games. These games, primarily of the "Final Fantasy" series, are some of the best-released RPGs of all time.

"Final Fantasy VI," a game whose villain, Kefka, is a clown whose evil is only surpassed by Bozo, is incredibly long for a game originally released on the SNES.

After the re-release of these early "Final Fantasy" games came the most popular video game of the series. Featuring the god of early emos, Sephiroth, "Final Fantasy VII" became the quintessential RPG of the era, and for eras to come.

Following my brief time with the PlayStation, I was offered an upgrade for Christmas.

I chose the PlayStation 2 over the Nintendo Gamecube and Microsoft's break-in console, the massive xBox.

I was, once again, not disappointed. I was greeted Christmas morning with the PS2 and a game that, in concept, seemed like an idea that could only be spawned in a brainstorm from hell.

"Kingdom Hearts" was an RPG that mixed the plot arcs Square was known for, and the characters of Disney.

You no longer need drugs to see Goofy and Donald at your side, beating up Jafar. It's awesome.

The PS2 also featured the biggest innovations in the historically based "Dynasty Warriors" series.

"DW" is based on the Three Kingdoms era of China, with a heavy influence from the novel "Romance of the Three Kingdoms."

Featuring popular Chinese characters like Cao Cao, Zhuge Liang, and Liu Bei, the games proved to be fun hack-and-slash games.

Then came the biggest choice to date: Nintendo Wii, xBox 360, or PlayStation 3?

These answers and more next week.

The views expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or its affiliates. The Current Sauce is constantly seeking articulate, informed writers to contribute their Opinions on various topics. We will edit all columns for grammar, spelling and AP style, but we will never edit your ideas. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site, www.thecurrentsauce.com. For more information, attend The Current Sauce meetings in 227 Kyser Hall Mondays at 5 p.m.

Check out the online exclusive section of our Web site to read and comment on columns and reader polls, and sign up for breaking news sent to you by e-mail.

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Get out and vote

Cody Bourque
SGA President



Please do not hate me after you go to the polls on Sept. 24 for SGA Elections.

Aside from voting for our fellow students to represent us on homecoming honor court and Ms. and Mr. NSU, the student body has 16 constitutional amendments before it. Meaning we may be spending an extra minute or two at the polls, but these changes put before us are key to having a better functioning student government.

You could have had it worse though. After signing my name 16 times in a row to put the amendments on the ballot, I had to go down to the health services for advice on how to treat my new case of carpal tunnel.

Even more essential to a better functioning student government though is for students to be informed about what the SGA Constitution outlines, along with the issues facing us, of course. Former SGA President Shayne Creppel has suggested on many occasions to include a copy of the Constitution in the student handbook, which I think would be a great idea and something we should pursue so that all students know what the document entails, especially since there can not be any changes made without a referendum by the students.

Not to mention the fact that every student is a member of the organization and should know what student government actually does.

The amendments will be available for students to view at the polling site, but I did want to offer my opinion about a couple concerning my position as Student Body President.

In the SGA bylaws there is a stipulation that states that the president cannot run for two consecutive terms, which leaves room for him or her to run for non-consecutive terms. As David Royal pointed out in his article last week, there was a bad taste left in the Senate's mouth for two-term presidencies, and they inserted the clause in the bylaws for, I believe, purely political purposes.

The main reason this amendment has my support is because it will encourage elections along with allowing sitting presidents the opportunity to continue their work if the student body believes he or she is doing a good job.

I would not have supported this bill if it would have allowed me an opportunity to run for another term, not because I do not want it, - because I would like to continue working for my fellow classmates - but because I did not want any political fog to cloud the reasoning behind the amendment.

One other amendment dealing with my position is better defining what the SGA President is responsible for.

My title – SGA President – is interchangeable with Student Body President, and we want the President's position to be more synonymous with the overall leadership of our student body, which is kind of obvious when student government is the body for that leadership, but with this amendment we clearly define the vice president's position to manage the internal functions of SGA as an organization and the president to mold the direction of the student body.

Do not forget to vote in homecoming elections and I hope to see you Saturday when the Demons face Cal Poly. It is great to have a nationally ranked opponent coming to Turpin after the amazing GSU game, and we should be out there to support our Demons and show the rest of the country that our football team is a force to be reckoned with.

Fork 'em!!!

THE CURRENTSAUCE

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Ranking the rankings

Eric Guidry
Guest Columnist



The Mountain West Conference's (MWC) complete dominance over the Pac 10 this year has been baffling to say the least.

The Pac 10 is supposed to be one of the six "major conferences": ACC, Big 10, Big XII, Big East, Pac 10 and SEC.

The MWC is 5-0 against the Pac 10. Conference USA (CUSA) East Carolina University's beating an ACC and Big Ten school, along with the MWC's success, makes me believe that the New Year's Day bowls should not be strictly prejudiced on what conference each team plays in, but on how well its conference has done in non-conference games versus worthy conferences.

I considered CUSA, the MWC and the WAC as top conferences because of their minor successes of recent years.

I compared the major conferences and these three conferences' records against each other in non-conference games, and the results may change some people's minds about which conferences are best.

Everyone considers the SEC as the dominant conference, but so far it has been the Big XII dominating out of conference play (15-3). The SEC is second (11-3). Surprisingly enough, the MWC is third (9-3). The ACC (4-7), Big East (3-7), Big Ten (6-5), and Pac 10 (8-10) have all shown they are better than the other two minor conferences: CUSA (2-11) and WAC (3-12).

CUSA and the WAC are not considered major conferences because they are "top-heavy" conferences, which means they have only a few good teams.

Every conference other than the SEC has its pushover schools. The Big XII has Iowa State. Everyone should be able to find a weak link in all the other major conferences.

So, my question: why should BYU, Utah, and ECU have to go undefeated, be ranked in the top 12, and have one of the major conference champions be ranked below 16th to be assured a BCS bowl?

Student warns against emulating childhood games

Richelle Stephens
Guest Columnist



Call me nostalgic, but I do not lust for modern video games like some of you may.

My Sega Genesis still works perfectly, and I must admit that I enjoy it more than the PlayStation 2 currently collecting dust in my living room.

"Gun" was a great title for the PS2, of course, and I enjoyed it to an extent, but I spent more time perusing "SNK Arcade Classics Volume 1" than I did with the former.

Once I discovered the 1996 golfing masterpiece "Neo [Geo] Turf Masters," however, I realized that although today's games are indeed superior in presentation and user interaction, there's something about ecrude pixels and primitive music that added a transcendental element to their games that won me over to the "ancients."

Unfortunately, it's not easy to satiate my desires in this regard.

Video game retailers no longer carry used games for outmoded platforms; if someone is looking for the Sega Genesis game "Sonic 3D," they must forego the national chains for online auction sites, third-rate small business types or flea markets, and if they're lucky then a well-worn copy of their favorite blue hedgehog in the splendor that 3-D affords could end up in their possession.

I am typically quite patient. However, perusing rusty metal racks in smelly and dank cubbyholes on the corner of Stab Wound Terrace and Brass Knuckles Boulevard was not my idea of a fun afternoon, especially when my hard-earned and oft-underappreciated money was at stake in pursuit of the game in question.

I had considered devoting some space on the hard drive of my trusty Mac for what old school video game aficionados like to call an emulator.

However, after previewing the experience on a friend's computer and reading about the issues surrounding them, I had decided to think otherwise.

Let me offer this caveat before I go further: emulators, which are original computer programs written by those unaffiliated with the industry, are legal, whereas ROMs (Read Only Memory), which are codes written directly from the computer chip inside of the video game cartridge, are not (for now).

However, it is legal to copy information from software that you own for backup purposes; it would become illegal if you were to upload the information ripped from the ROM onto a Web site developed specifically for that purpose for others to use.

Outside of that loophole, ROMs are illegal, simply put.

Don't get me wrong, for I think that the whole idea is a wonderful way to preserve our gaming past when the physical remnants of it are quickly disappearing.

Unfortunately, future generations may not be able to experience the beloved titles I played as a child, for arcades have gone the way of the Betamax videotape, and it's quite difficult to locate not only the physical titles of the games I once played but also the platforms for which they were designed.

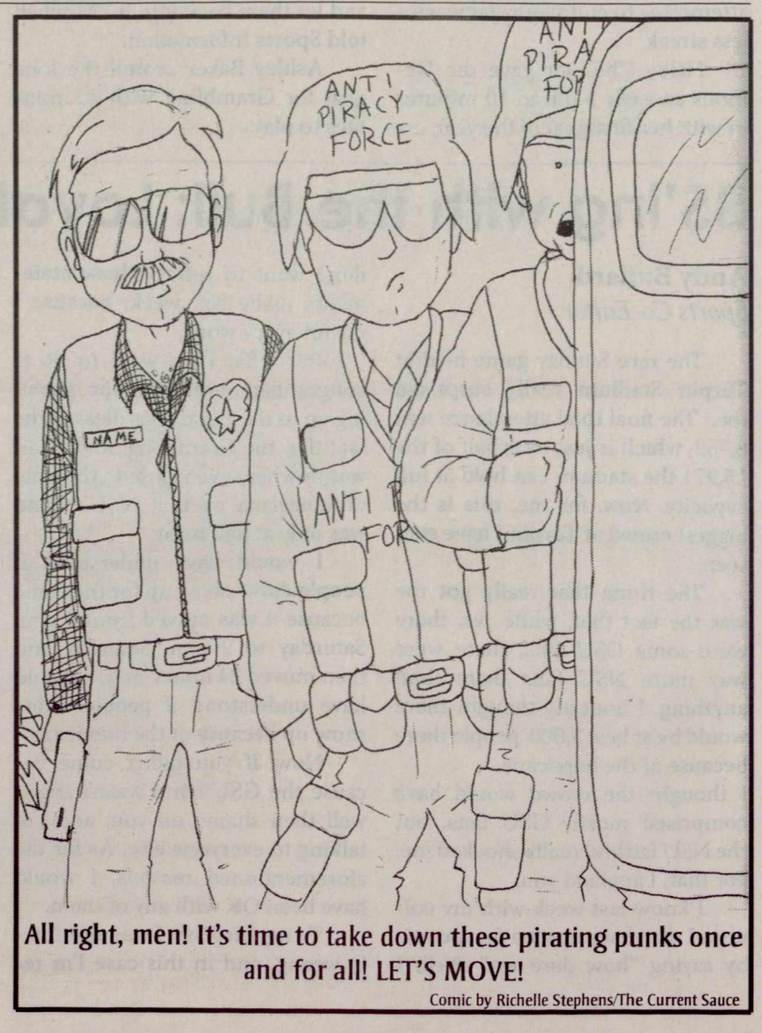
However, until video game makers decide to wise up and cater to the desires for nostalgia through more intensive "greatest hits" games and re-releases for modern systems, gamers are risking their stance as law-abiders by running ROMs through emulators.

Not only are they illegal, but the quality of the ROM rips are not superb.

Any video on YouTube of people showing off their "Sonic the Hedgehog" ROMs without sound and slower gameplay can confirm this.

This is a shame, of course. The game is amazing, naturally, but the aforementioned elements completed the experience for me.

How can someone play the game in question without hearing that familiar boing every time Sonic jumps? Now, that's simply not right.



All right, men! It's time to take down these pirating punks once and for all! LET'S MOVE!

Comic by Richelle Stephens/The Current Sauce

Fletcher Jonson
Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editors
September17, 2008

'Purple Swarm' stings black and gold

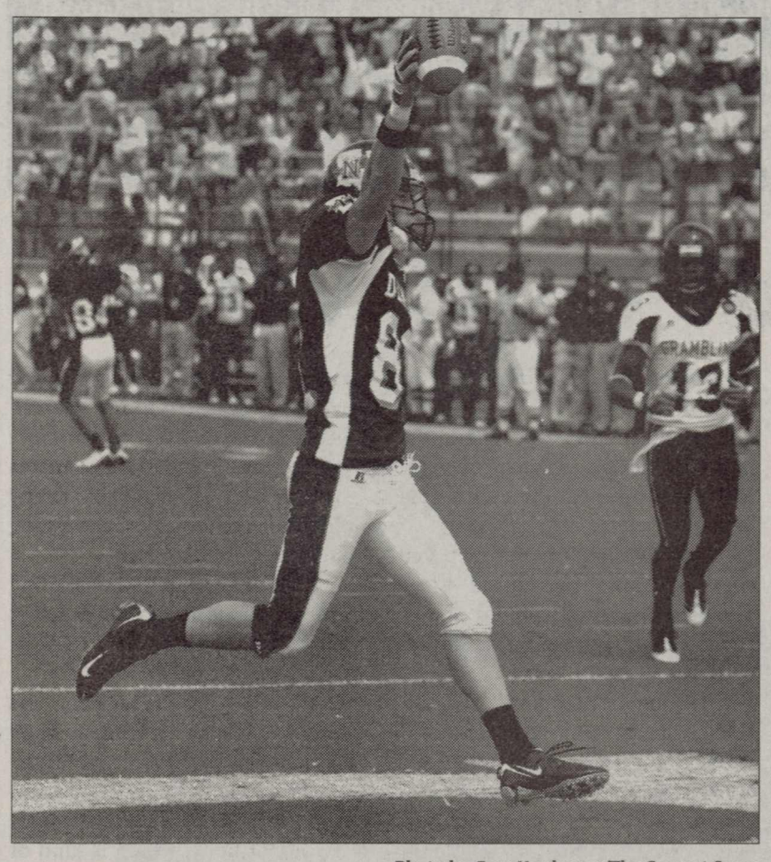


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Senior wide receiver Jimmy McKee celebrates after a touchdown catch from junior quarterback John Hundley for the first score of the game.

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

Thanks in part to a goal line stand on the 1-yard line and a 99-yard touchdown drive, the NSU Demons were able to come out victoriously against the Grambling State Tigers, 31-19.

The game-saving goal line stand came early in the fourth quarter. The Tigers had a first and goal from the Demon 5-yard line, and on first and second down was able to move it up to the 1.

Then on third down, GSU ran the ball right up the middle only to be stopped by junior linebacker Blake Delcambre for no gain.

The ball was then marked at the Demon 1-yard line, and it was fourth and goal for the Tigers.

On the ensuing play GSU quarterback J.P. Tillman rolled out to right on a play action pass and threw the ball to a wide open Cornelius Walker only for it to be deflected by senior linebacker Mack Dampier and sophomore defensive end Ledell Love.

After the turnover on downs the Demons drove the length of the field in a 16-play, 99-yard drive that ate up 9:36 off the fourth quarter clock. The Demons converted four third downs on the drive. The play that capped off the drive was a 17-yard play action pass from junior quarterback John Hundley to junior tight end Gordon Freeman.

"What a great win over a very good Grambling team. We made big play after big play on defense and then put together two awesome drives to end the game. Our team showed a lot of guts to pull that one out, especially going 99 yards against a very, very talented Grambling defense on the heels of an awesome goal line stand," head coach Scott Stoker said.

The offense played well the entire game, scoring on their first two possessions of the game with a 31-yard touchdown pass from Hundley to senior wide receiver Jimmy McKee and senior kicker Robert Weeks' 32-yard field goal.

The Demons gained 327 yards of total offense, with the bulk of that coming from the ground game.

NSU's rushing attack netted 170 yards, running backs William Griffin and Sterling Endsley combining for 129 yards on 25 carries.



Photo by Gary Hardamom/The Current Sauce
Quarterback John Hundley scrambles in the Demons' 31-19 win against Grambling.

Hundley also had his best game as a Demon, completing 11 passes on 21 attempts for 157 yards and two touchdowns. He also added to the rushing total with 13 carriers for 65 yards and a touchdown.

With his 32-yard field goal in the first quarter, Weeks moved within five made field goals of breaking the NSU record for most career field goals made. With the six points he scored, he moved in only 43 points away from breaking the school record for most points in a career. With the Tigers in the rear-view mirror, the Demons now can look forward to the Cal Poly Mustangs, who are ranked 11th in the Football Championship Sub-Division coaches' poll.

"We have a lot to do. We have a big ball game this weekend, and we have a lot to do and a short week to do it in," Coach Stoker said.

The Demons will host the Cal Poly Mustangs this Saturday at Turpin Stadium at 6 p.m.

Rollercoaster season hits loop

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Demon soccer squad returned home last Tuesday after a three-game road trip, hosting the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

NSU came into the game 1-3, hoping to end a three-game losing streak.

UALR's Kristen Semko scored her first goal of the season, giving the Lady Trojans an early 1-0 lead.

Only 56 seconds later, Rachel O'Steen netted her first goal of the season, tying the game at 1.

After a very physical first half, NSU fell behind 3-1 in the second half, with only 20 minutes remaining.

"That was a really good team we faced tonight," NSU head coach Jimmy Mitchell told Sports Information. "They are extremely fast and very well-coached."

Lacie Hughes assisted Rachel O'Steen's second goal, bringing the Demons within one. Kacie Shultz scored the game-tying goal six minutes later, to finish NSU's late rally.

Mitchell said the chances to win were there, and he was proud of the way his team competed and found themselves in a position to win the game.

The game ended in a 3-3 tie in double overtime, moving NSU to 1-3-1 and UALR to 2-4-1.

The ladies in purple and white traveled to Grambling last Friday, attempting to end a four-game winless streak.

Haley Cheshier gave the Demons an early 1-0 lead 10 minutes in with her first goal of the year, assisted by Kayla King.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Rachel O'Steen fights for possession against two UALR players.

Nine minutes later, Kayce Schultz pushed the Demons to a 2-0 lead with King earning her second assist of the game.

"We got the two quick goals, and I thought we were going to put them away, but we kind of stalled and let them back into it," Mitchell told Sports Information.

Ashley Baker scored the lone goal for Grambling with 12 minutes to play.

The win snapped a four-game winless streak for the Demons going into a big game against the Big 12's Texas Tech.

The Demons dropped its fourth match of the season, after a 5-1 loss in Lubbock. Maddy Hall scored the only goal for the Demons off an assist from Sarah Sadler.

Her goal came in the 43rd minute of the game. NSU falls to 2-4-1 on the year. The Demons will return home to face Centenary at 7 p.m.

UPCOMING DEMON EVENTS

9/18	Volleyball vs. UCA (UCA Tourney)
9/19	Volleyball vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff (UCA Tourney)
9/19	*Soccer vs. Centenary 7 p.m.
9/20	Volleyball at Louisiana-Monroe (UCA Tourney)
9/20	*Football vs. Cal Poly 6 p.m.
9/21	*Soccer vs. Louisiana-Lafayette 2 p.m.

* indicates home games

RECENT DEMON EVENTS

9/9	T	Soccer 3 vs. Ark. Little Rock 3 (2 OT)
9/12	W	Soccer 2 vs. Grambling 1
9/14	L	Soccer 1 at Texas Tech 5
9/14	W	Football 31 vs. Grambling 19
9/16	L	Volleyball 1 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette 3
9/16	W	Volleyball 3 vs. Grambling 0

BS'ing with the Bull: Loyalty replaced

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The rare Sunday game held at Turpin Stadium really surprised me. The final total attendance was 8,752, which is just over half of the 15,971 the stadium can hold at full capacity. Now, for me, this is the biggest crowd at Turpin I have ever seen.

The thing that really got me was the fact that, while yes, there were some GSU fans, there were way more NSU fans there than anything. I honestly thought there would be at best 3,000 people there because of the hurricane.

I thought the crowd would have comprised mostly GSU fans, but the NSU faithful really shocked me. For that, I applaud you.

I know last week with my column I may have upset a few people by saying "how dare we." Well, I don't want to retract those statements made last week, because I meant every word.

But what I do want to do is congratulate everyone for showing up to the game regardless of the fact that the Grambling State band was nowhere even close to the state of Louisiana or that NSU's band was only at half mast.

I would have understood if people didn't show up for the game because it was moved from 6 p.m. Saturday to 2 p.m. Saturday and then moved 24 hours later. I would have understood if people didn't show up because of the hurricane.

Now, if you didn't come because the GSU band wasn't there, well then shame on you, and I'm talking to everyone else. As for the aforementioned reasons, I would have been OK with any of them.

To my surprise, I was absolutely wrong, and in this case I'm really glad that I was. The only thing I have to ask for from here on out is that we can duplicate this with even greater numbers in the coming weeks. We need to be out in full purple-and-white force for our football team.

It would be a huge boost for the team to run out of the purple smoke and see a packed house. So, again, I just want to say that I am proud of the NSU nation that showed up for the football game even with a bunch of reasons not to. As for those of you who didn't, it's OK.

I'll let you make it up to me by cheering on our boys this Saturday against Cal Poly. You have no reason to complain – if you bought your ticket for the GSU game, it will work for the next home game. So, for the last time from me, just a reporter for this newspaper, thank you for proving me wrong.

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THE CURRENT SAUCE

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, September 24, 2008 ◆ Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 ◆ Volume 94: Issue 7

This week

Go Green

NSU makes plans to become eco-friendly.



p. 3

Hallelujah



Students sing for divine purpose.

p. 4

Say it ain't so

Student expresses opinion on Yankee Stadium.



p. 8

Please visit us on the Web at *www.thecurrentsauce.com*

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Weather

Wednesday 89°/60°

Thursday 88°/58°

Friday 88°/57°

Saturday 84°/60°

Sunday 82°/60°

Monday 85°/61°

Tuesday 82°/60°

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Jindal stresses LA education

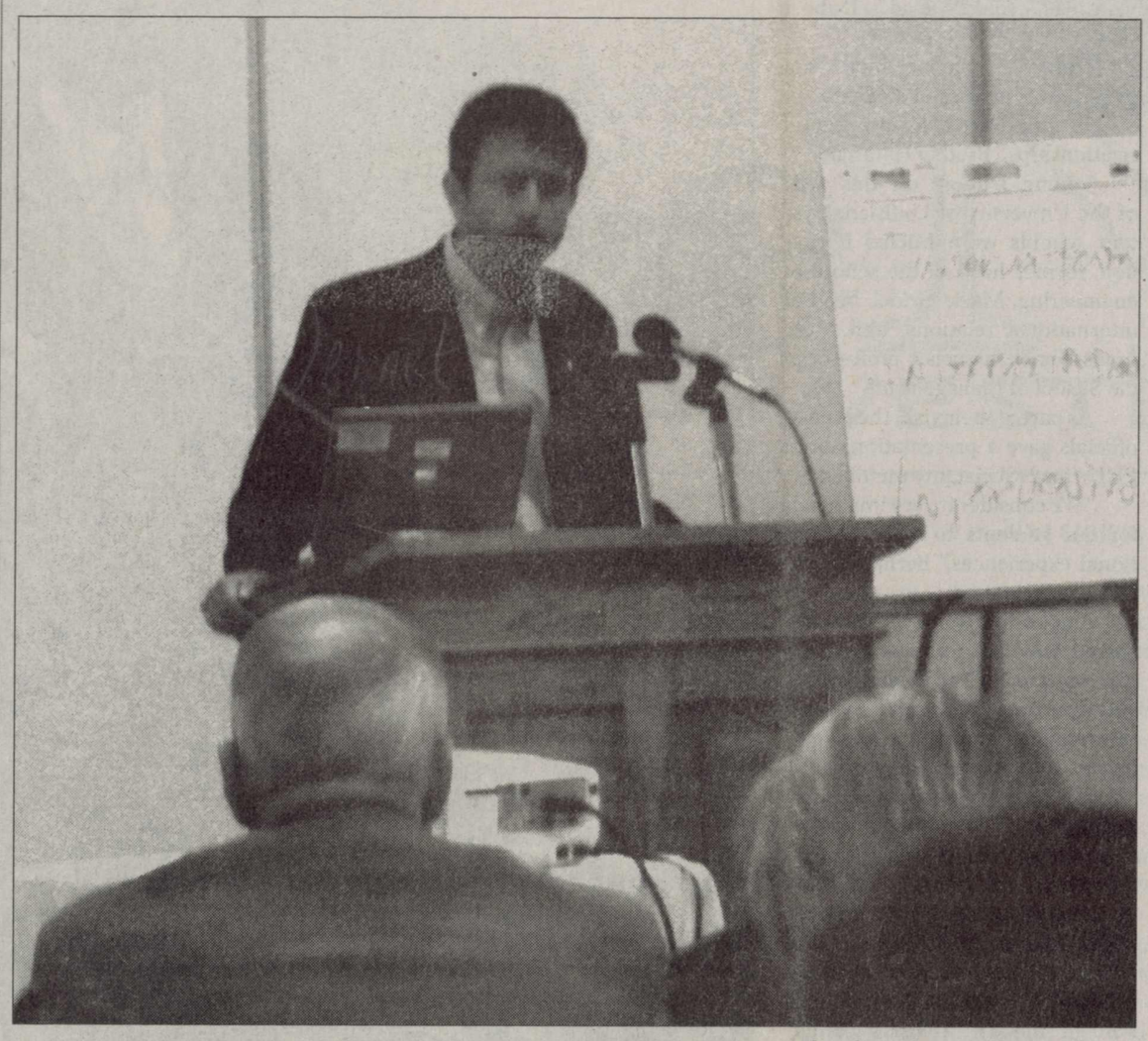


Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

Gov. Bobby Jindal addresses a group of Louisiana superintendents on Monday.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

Gov. Bobby Jindal visited Natchitoches Monday as part of a parish-to-parish tour of the state to inspect damage caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Jindal took the opportunity to speak at a superintendent retreat Monday afternoon while in Natchitoches.

As Jindal walked to the podium to speak, the superintendents in the audience rose to their feet.

Jindal began his speech by thanking the superintendents and their school systems for "stepping up to the plate" during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

The governor highlighted the hard work school officials put in during the two recent hurricanes – from supplying school buses and drivers to cooking for and housing evacuees in school buildings.

Jindal also commended the superintendents for trying to get schools back to normal operations as soon as possible, and he spoke of those across the state who are ready to rebuild and keep on going.

"It's amazing, the resilience and determination of our people," Jindal said.

In his speech, Jindal also emphasized how important public education is to him, which resonated with Natchitoches Parish superintendent Wanda Murphy because she feels the same way.

Murphy said she has been in different levels of public education for many years and has seen that education is important for the community and economic development.

Jindal explained that his realization of the importance of school comes from his father, who was the first person in his family to get to fifth grade.

"The reason I'm so passionate about [public education], I learned it at home," Jindal said.

The governor left the group of superintendents with two suggested topics. He said the state needs to work on its accountability system for public education, which rewards or punishes institutions based on standardized test scores.

Although it is good to measure results, he said it is important to know at what level students started the year.

Jindal said he wants to make sure the state is rewarding and focusing on systems with students who are improving.

"Our goal's got to be excellence for every child," Jindal said.

The second suggestion Jindal gave was to encourage students in Louisiana to continue their education, which is not limited to just four-year universities. Students can also continue learning at technical colleges and become members of a a skilled work force.

It is not just important that students continue their education but also that they continue their studies in Louisiana. The governor said many students in Louisiana are moving to other states for higher education or for employment, so Jindal wants to find ways to encourage them to stay.

Past Louisiana governors have considered closing down smaller universities such as NSU, but Jindal said he absolutely has no such plans.

As a former University of Louisiana System president, Jindal said he knows that even the small universities play a great role in educating students in the state.

He said that these universities should focus on being specialized rather than focusing on their size.

"Too long [small universities] have been driven to be the biggest instead of the best," Jindal said.

One way to keep students in Louisiana after high school is with dual enrollment programs, which allow high school students to gain college credit earlier than their peers, Jindal said.

The earlier students begin their higher education, the more likely they are to continue and finish a degree, Jindal said.

These programs also keep students rooted in Louisiana when they have begun a program at an in-state institution.

Wanda Murphy agreed with Jindal about the importance of keeping young people in Louisiana.

"I have children and grandchildren, and I want to keep them here," Murphy said.



Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

Jindal speaks about the recent hurricanes and the importance of education at a Louisiana superintendent retreat at the Natchitoches Events Center.

SAB back to basics with budget

David Royal
News Editor

After becoming the Director of Student Activities this year, Yonna Pasch stepped down from being the Student Activities Board's adviser. Pasch was the SAB adviser for more than four years.

This semester, Kirk Lee joined the NSU staff to replace two of the positions that were held by Pasch – Assistant Director of Student Activities and SAB's adviser.

Lee, who was once a student at NSU, has spent the last two years as the student life adviser for the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

Although he said this is the first time he has been an adviser for an organization like SAB, Lee said he believes the experience he has gained with his position at LSMSA can be used to overcome the obstacles he will meet.

Lee's optimism is reflected by members of the SAB, including president Roderick Wilson. Wilson said that he believes Lee has done a great job thus far.

"He has a real hands-on approach and is able to provide SAB with concrete ideas," Wilson said.

Both Lee and Wilson agree that the largest problem members of SAB have had to face is trying to manage a tight budget.

Lee said that the SAB has about $88,000 to work with for the entire academic year, compared to the already limited $100,000 budget of last year.

Although this figure may sound like a lot of money to a college student, Lee said that having only $88,000 to pay the costs for all of the SAB's events and scholarships is not an ideal situation.

Wilson said, now more than ever, members of the SAB are having to take extra measures to ensure that the organization is spending its money wisely.

Wilson explained that members are looking at three universities each across the nation to compare and contrast how other student social organizations use their funding. Some of the schools being observed include the University of Central Florida, University of North Carolina, and Louisiana State University.

Lee added that members of SAB have had to reevaluate their goals for the year so that they could take advantage of every dollar they do have.

For example, once they had assessed their goals and costs over the summer, members of the SAB found it necessary to scale back on their movie nights.

Last year, the SAB spent a large portion of its budget on providing numerous student movie nights that featured films like "Spiderman 3" and "Dan In Real Life."

Lee explained, however, that the response from the student body last year did not make up for the costs.

This semester, members of the SAB hope to overcome the challenges that come along with new leadership and limited funding, while also providing students with enjoyable social events.

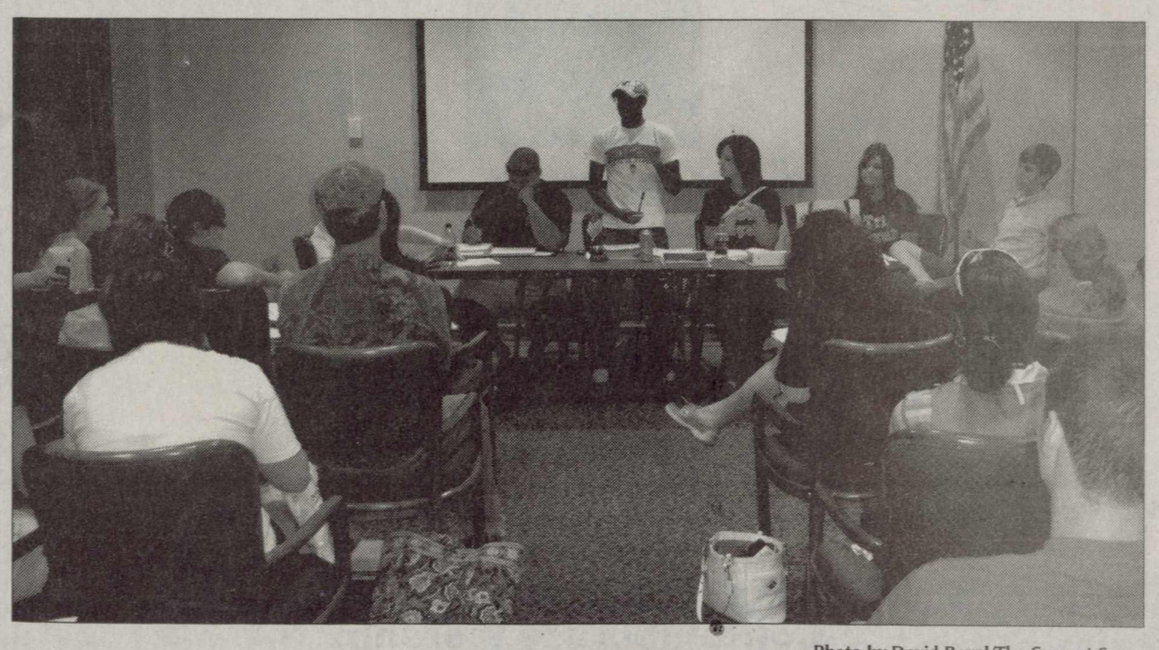


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

SAB President Roderick Wilson addresses the members of his organization in their weekly board meeting. Wilson stresses the importance of being prepared for the upcoming events.

"While planning for the upcoming year, we decided that we have to get back to the basics," Lee said.

One event planned for this semester that reflects this mentality is Café du Demon, which is planned for this Thursday.

Lee said Café du Demon is special because it is a social event that will create a coffeehouse-like atmosphere in the Friedman Student Union that students can enjoy, but will not necessarily take away much from their budget.

Additionally, Lee said the SAB will be looking to bring more local musical acts to perform, rather than huge stars.

Because they have focused such a great deal of time on ways to not waste money, Lee said the SAB will still be able to throw some large-scale events, like last year's "The Price is Right" event.

This semester, Lee said the SAB is dedicating a bulk of its time and money for "Vegas Night." The event is planned to be held Nov. 4 and will allow students to play a plethora of classic casino games.

Also, Lee said the SAB has a great deal of activities planned for Homecoming Week.

One event planned for the week is "Spirit Lane," which will allow students to have their vehicles decorated by the SAB.

The organization will also show "The Dark Knight" during Movie Night and host a lip sync competition.

Wilson admitted that the budget has been difficult to work with, but added that the guidance of Lee and the work the SAB members have put in have created an optimistic atmosphere within the SAB office.

"Things were kind of looking bad during the summer, but now it looks like we will have an awesome year," Wilson said.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
September 24, 2008

Collaboration initiates exchange program

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

NSU welcomed French officials to its campus as part of an eight-university tour this week.

The University of Louisiana System and the Pole Universitaire Leonard de Vinci (PULV) in France signed an agreement Thursday that allows students from either system to study abroad in the other.

Brad O'Hara, provost and vice president of academic affairs for the University of Louisiana System, said the visits to the eight universities in the ULS are important because it gives the French officials an appreciation of the richness of Louisiana.

The Pole Universitaire Leonard de Vinci comprises three major schools – management, engineering and multimedia – that are located in Paris, France.

The idea for the schools and their construction began in 1992, and they opened their doors to students in 1995. All three schools have been accredited since 2007.

PULV assistant general manager Phillippe Dubost said the schools serve about 4,500 students total, with about 40 percent who study abroad at some point during their five-year course.

Dubost and his fellow colleagues want to increase that percentage to 100, which is where this partnership comes in.

This is not the first partnership for the Paris school system, though. It is its 52nd, all of which span 24 countries, which is important to PULV officials.

"We are in a global world, and in a globalized world [we] have to ensure partnerships," Dubost said.

These partnerships allow students to gain cultural experiences as well as practical training, which Dubost said is part of the school's philosophy because practical training is important in finding jobs for his students after graduation.

As a cultural exchange program, students who study abroad still pay tuition at the home institution rather than paying the international rate.

The PULV program is primarily focused on business, and Dubost emphasized the need for international relations in the business world.

"If you don't share and develop partnerships, if you don't share culture, if you don't share faculty members, you're dead," Dubost said.

However, partnerships can prevent this professional "death."

"It boils down to fostering good relationships," Brad O'Hara said.

Joining Dubost on this tour of the University of Louisiana System schools were Michel Bernadou, former head of the school of engineering, Marie Gridel, head of international relations, and Mark Louis Uhrich, associate professor in the School of Management.

As part of their visit, the French officials gave a presentation about PULV for NSU faculty members.

"We consider it very important for our students to have international experiences," Bernadou said in his presentation.

This opportunity is not reserved only for students. Teachers can travel to Paris to teach at PULV, and the home institution pays as if the teachers were still teaching at home.

The only expenses for teachers and students who study abroad in this partnership are living expenses.

The idea for the partnership began in May when Dubost and other officials displayed a PULV booth at a National Association of Foreign Student Advisers conference.

Dubost said the booth was merely "10 meters away" from that of the ULS.

Once Dubost met the ULS officials, he said he saw a "real need on both sides" for a cultural exchange partnership, which has now come to fruition.

Louisiana's French background also may have played a role in catching Dubost's attention.

"The French Louisiana culture is underlying," O'Hara said.

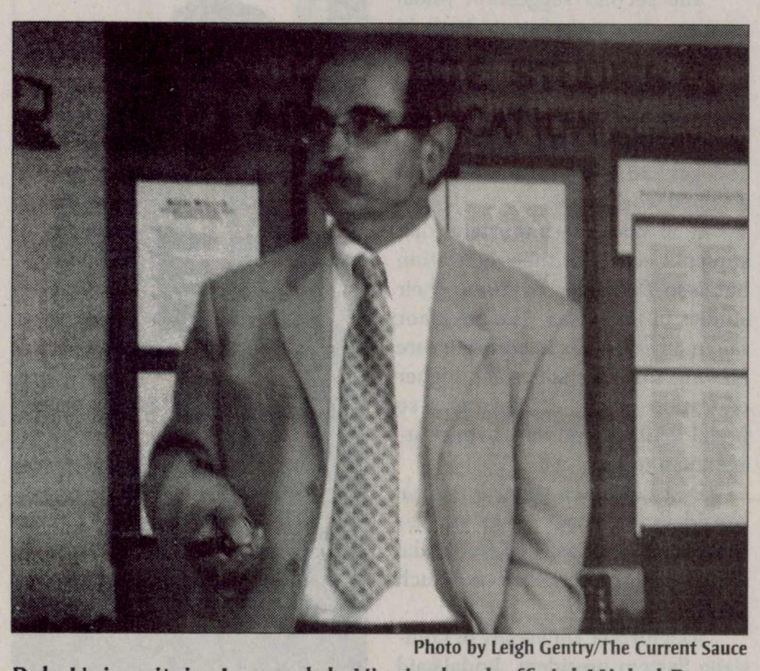


Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

Pole Universitaire Leonard de Vinci school official Michel Bernadou discusses an engineering program in Paris.

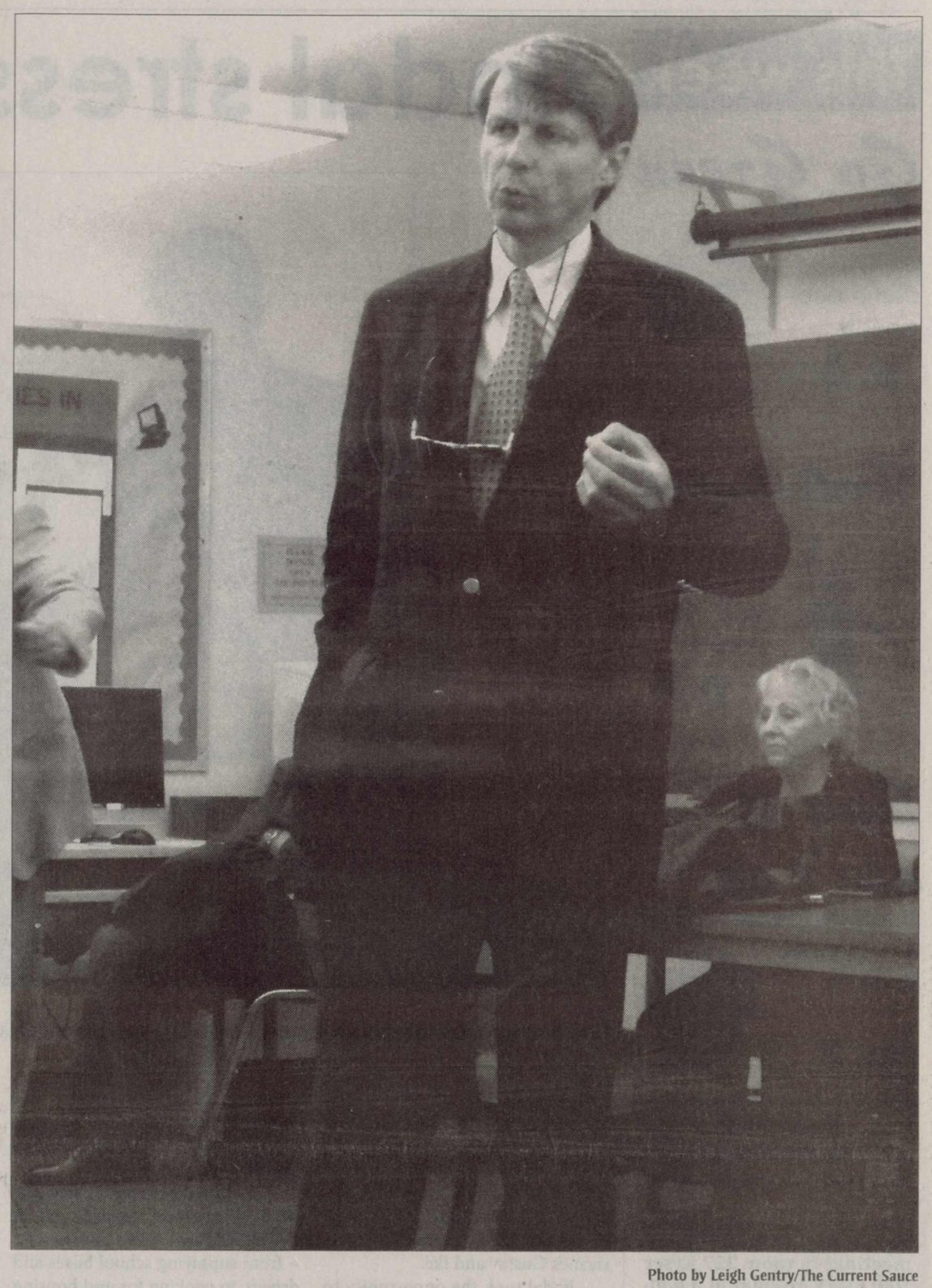


Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

Philippe Dubost, associate general manager of Pole Universitaire Leonard de Vinci, leads the delegation of Paris school officials who visited all eight schools in the University of Louisiana System.

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College Ministry



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Police Blotter

9/17

9:00 a.m.- Lady stuck in elevator in Kyser Hall

9/18

12:01 a.m.- Report of fire on Greek Hill

7:08 p.m.- Abandoned vehicle found on Tarlton Drive by farm gate

7:15 p.m.- Abandoned vehicle still on Tarlton Drive by farm gate

7:56 p.m.- Abandoned vehicle ran out of gas but now has been moved

9/19

9:23 p.m.- Two vehicles found drag racing on Tarlton Drive

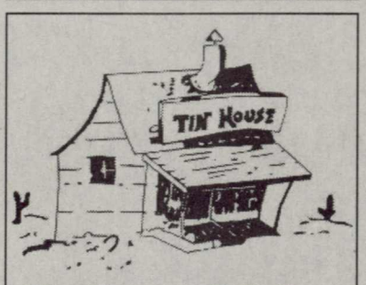
9/22

7:31 p.m.- Checking on a stove that is sparking in University Columns

****The Current Sauce collects the police blotter each week from the Campus Police department.**

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
September 24, 2008

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Green future in store for NSU

greeNSU
NORTHWESTERN GREEN

Courtesy Image

The official logo for the NSU green initiative illustrates the university's interest in making campus more environmentally friendly.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

NSU is making strides to save the world – or at least the campus – by joining the ranks of the eco-friendly.

Service learning coordinator Steve Gruesbeck is heading the committee to turn NSU green. University President Randall Webb said the committee is exploring the possibilities of involving faculty, staff and students. That's where Homecoming Week comes in.

Gruesbeck said the service learning committee is still planning the events for Service Day, which is scheduled for Oct. 22 as part of Homecoming Week, and the theme of the day is "Go Purple, Go White, Go Green."

The committee is trying to incorporate a "green" theme into all of Service Day's events, Gruesbeck said.

NSU is also partnering with the City of Natchitoches in a "Keep America Beautiful" competition for small or medium-sized cities. The contest involves collecting aluminum cans during the month of October, and the town that collects the most cans wins $5,000 to put toward a town-wide recycling center.

Gruesbeck said the contest is just one example of a service that will be planned as part of NSU's "go green" initiative, which has a service learning component.

Webb said it is important to note that NSU is taking the lead in service learning with this initiative compared to other schools.

"Why is it important for NSU to go green? Well, it makes sense to look toward our future," Gruesbeck said.

He said it is important to teach students how to protect the environment and save energy.

Energy conservation, one way to go green, is about sustainability – making what we have last longer, Webb said.

Many of the active components of this initiative are waiting on a request for proposals for an energy conservation contract, which is still under review. This request asks companies to send in contracts that would advise the university on how to save energy on campus.

Once NSU's legal group chooses and reviews a contract, the university can start making some changes around campus, like trading in the current light bulbs for more energy-efficient bulbs.

Although these changes may seem expensive at first, the university wants to effect energy savings, which would save money in the long run, Webb said.

Money for these changes could come from the Northwestern Enrichment Fund, which has some money set aside for "green" research, and if someone writes a grant containing service learning it will have priority over others, Gruesbeck said.

However, the RFP process is a slow one, Webb said. Gruesbeck said the RFP is central to the "go green" initiative but not the only part. He said the behavior on part of the staff, faculty and students is equally as important.

Although not much can be done until the RFP is reviewed, Webb said the university is still making special efforts to be more eco-friendly.

One such effort involves cleaning the campus. Gruesbeck said Red River Sanitors has switched to "greener" cleaning products with fewer harsh chemicals.

The NSU Print Shop is using more environmentally friendly supplies, such as paper, ink and toner, Gruesbeck said.

He also said the grounds' crew is exploring the feasibility of using greener products as well.

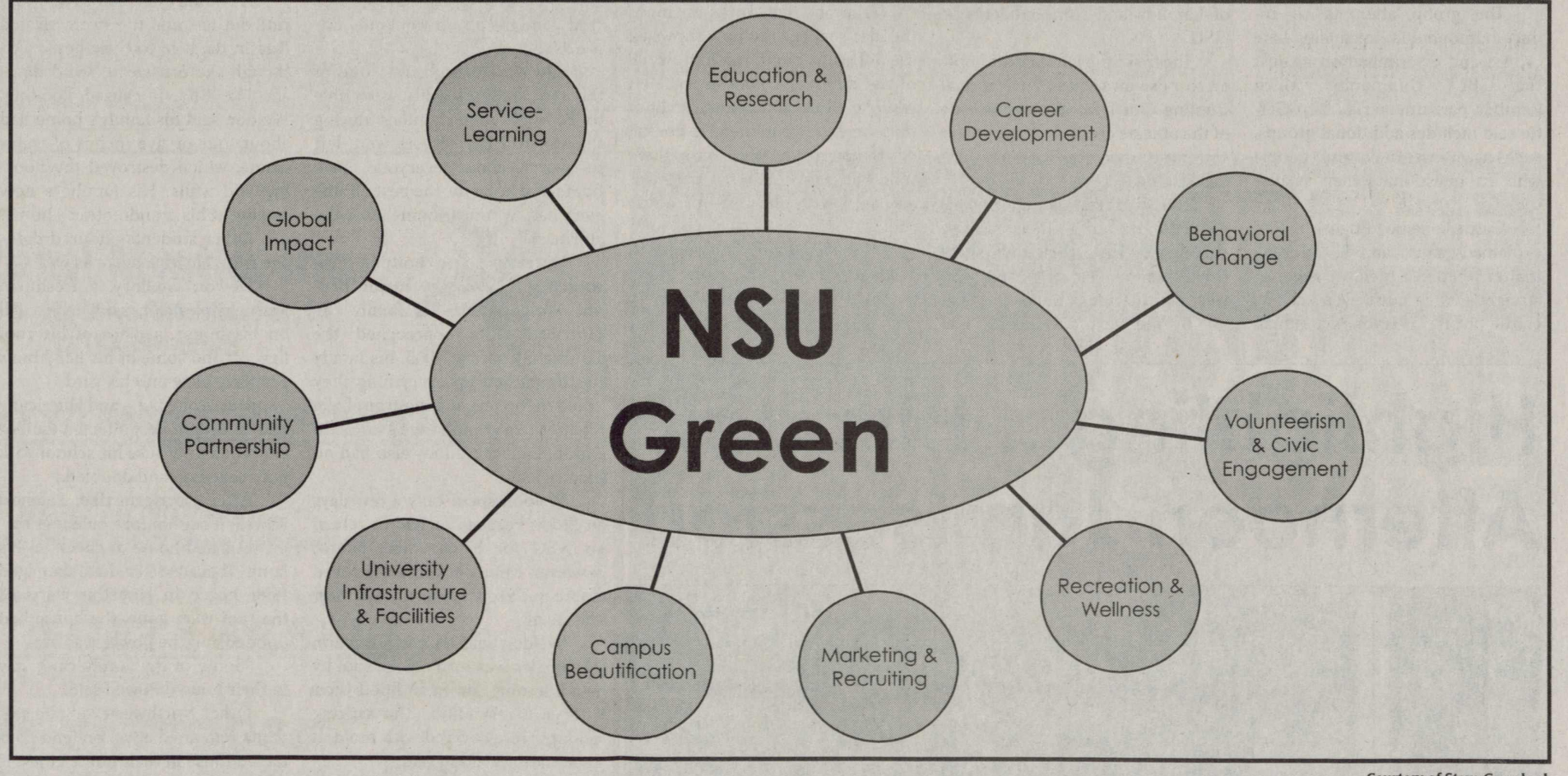
"Our intention is not to force anyone to do anything," Webb said. "I hope it forces them to think."

The going green process began over the summer when Gruesbeck set out to find out what "green" meant to NSU faculty, staff and students. He spoke to about 45 people and divided their answers into 11 components, several of which have to do with the campus or student behavior, he said.

"My hope is to get communication between students, faculty and staff groups," Gruesbeck said.

Gruesbeck's side of the initiative is student oriented, and Webb has been happy with Gruesbeck's performance so far.

"I think he has done a marvelous job [at incorporating the green initiative into service learning]," Webb said.



Courtesy of Steve Gruesbeck

Steve Gruesbeck divided the NSU green intiative into 11 categories based on answers he received to the question, "What does 'green' mean to you?"

New scholarship breaks record

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

NSU students will soon have the opportunity to apply for a $10,000 scholarship aimed toward students affiliated with the military who are majoring in scientific fields.

Students with military experience – or students who have spouses or parents in the military – may apply.

Sherry Baumgardner established the scholarship with a donation and pledge to the NSU Foundation in memory of her husband, Ray K. Baumgardner.

Although she said she is not yet sure how soon all of the scholarship's details will be finalized, Sherry Baumgardner said this scholarship will go down in history as the largest ever offered by NSU.

The scholarship is a four-year scholarship requiring annual reapplication.

Ray K. Baumgardner, former head of the department of biological sciences, served as a faculty member at NSU from 1965 until his retirement in 1996.

In addition to being a department head, he acted as registrar, dean and provost of NSU's Fort Polk campus and assistant to the vice president of academic affairs.

During his years of service, the Fort Polk campus witnessed many advancements. It wasn't until 1994 that Baumgardner returned to the Natchitoches campus.

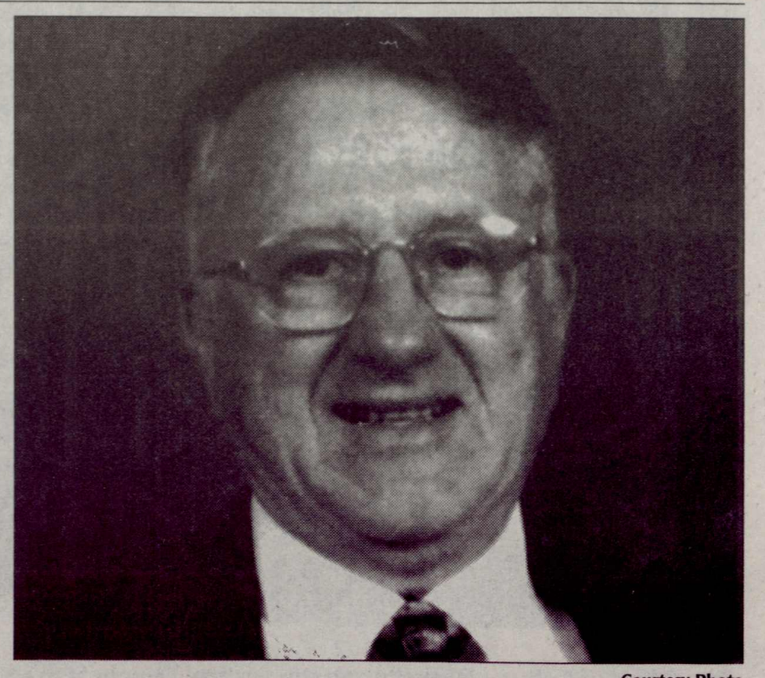
After his death in 1996, Baumgardner's wife Sherry wanted to do something to honor her husband and the university she described as his life.

Not only that, she desired to honor his respect and admiration for the military – he attended school on the GI bill.

Other criteria and regulations regarding application for the scholarship include an apparent financial need and a 2.5 GPA, said Jill Bankston, Assistant Director of NSU Alumni and Development.

Many remember Baumgardner as a great instructor and involved faculty member.

"I think he would have felt it [the scholarship] was the right thing," said his wife Sherry.



Courtesy Photo

Former biological sciences department head Ray Baumgardner.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
lgentry001@student.nsula.edu

RSO emphasizes equality, discourages discrimination



Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Lambda, a Gay-Straight Alliance and recognized student organization at NSU, encourages students to seek comradeship and acceptance. Lambda welcomes people of all sexual orientations, and membership is not reserved only for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students.

Lambda president Larrie King Jr., a graduate student working toward his master's in graphic design, said the group wants to make a statement on campus this semester.

"We're still a new organization and we're trying to figure out how to do the things that we want to do on campus, but basically, we'd like to try and raise awareness and tolerance for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community, as well as other groups of people that receive a lot of negativity in general from other students," King said.

King plans to host movie nights every month for the rest of the semester. This month's movie, "Dorian Blues," attracted about a dozen students to the Varnado lobby Thursday night.

The group attempts to reduce homophobia, inequality, hate crimes and discrimination against the GBLT community, which Lambda parliamentarian Tim Gattie said includes additional groups, such as transsexuals and people who are questioning their sexuality.

Gattie, a senior English major, explained that in Lambda, it doesn't matter whether a member is gay or straight – they don't even ask. As Gattie put it, "Everyone's a human being."

Gattie also pointed out that Lambda's message does not focus only on GLBT rights.

"It is about being individuals and recognizing that we all come from different kinds of aspects," Gattie said. "My coming out story is unique, as is anybody's. And, you know, even a straight person's coming out story – they really don't think that they have one, but they do."

The straight community is an important part of the organization as well. "Straight allies" – heterosexual people who support GLBT equality – lend a unique perspective and voice to Lambda and similar organizations, according to the Lambda Web site.

Lambda's NSU chapter will host several events throughout the year, including the annual Day of Silence during the spring semester, King said.

"We don't speak for a day in order to represent those who don't have a voice in their community or in their nation, and that's everyone from the GLBT community to battered women, abused children, everybody like that. And it's a really powerful day, I think, and it's really symbolic of the changes we'd like to make," King said.

The taciturn participants carry cards with them during the day as an explanation for those unfamiliar with the event. King said some members make exceptions during class, but that it's the message that counts.

Another important event for Lambda is National Coming Out Day, scheduled for Oct. 11.
A few years ago, National Coming Out Day proved that there is still tension between members of Lambda and some students at NSU.

The first time Lambda attempted to raise awareness for National Coming Out Day on campus, one of the officers created a large poster and put it up in the Friedman Student Union.

The organization left pencils near the poster and encouraged students to write their own short stories and advice for people who were considering coming out.

By the next day, people had scribbled quotations from the Bible on the banner, followed by "God hates fags" and other hateful comments, Gattie said.

Gattie said he personally found the comments amusing instead of offensive. Still, such intolerance is precisely what Lambda members aim to change.

"It's that kind of thing that we hope to stop," Gattie said.

King, the organization's president, noted that National Coming Out Day is an event for which the Gay-Straight Alliance tries to create a comfortable environment for members to express themselves if they feel motivated to speak out – and come out.

"Lambda tries to create a safe place for people to do that where they won't be ridiculed and so that they can see the people who have done it before them," Gattie said.

Gattie came out to select friends in his freshman year of high school, then moved to New York. When Gattie came out to his family a few years later, he said his parents weren't surprised.

"I was wearing at least three or four rainbows a day. It was kind of obvious," Gattie said.

The rainbow has become a widely recognized gay pride symbol, and it is actually incorporated into one of the Lambda association's flags. The flag depicts a rainbow, a pink triangle and the Greek letter in an arrangement that echoes the American flag. The Gay Activists Alliance of New York adopted the lambda as a symbol in 1970, according to the Lambda Web site.

There are several theories about the reasoning behind the rainbow as a symbol of the GBLT community, but Gattie summed up his favorite explanation.

"The one that works for me is the idea that the rainbow shows all the different colors, and it shows all of the different colors in society... just like all the different sexualities that we have, but then, it doesn't try to merge them or push them into one form, but it recognizes each and every one of them," Gattie said.

The NSU Lambda association holds meetings every Thursdays in room 221 in the Student Union.



Courtesy Photo

Senior psychology major Bryant Weldon's father and brother survey Hurricane Ike's damage to their Lake Charles home and neighborhood.

Ike strikes

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

The traumatic effects of Hurricane Ike lingered long after the storm left. For some Northwestern State students, though, it hit right at home.

Like other students, senior sociology major Jasper Edwards ended up hosting his family here in Natchitoches. Hurricane Ike destroyed the roof of his family's Opelousas home and caused water to flood the house.

"I couldn't concentrate or study, and the power went out," Edwards said.

Edwards, though, was one of the few students who were able to be with their families during the storm. Many others were left to worry about everyone back home and hope for the best. Some even had to return home after the storm.

Hurricanes are nothing new to senior psychology major Bryant Weldon and his family. As Hurricane Rita approached the Louisiana coast in 2005, his family hastily packed up everything they could before evacuating from Lake Charles to a grandparent's house in Pitkin, La., where they also had no electricity.

Weldon spent only a few days in Pitkin because he had to return to NSU for classes. His family, however, came back to a destroyed home in Lake Charles a week after the storm.

Weldon said an entire section of shingles was torn off the roof by wind, letting rain in to flood their attic and insulation. The sagging ceilings were covered with mold in each room, Weldon said.

The damage displaced Weldon's family to a rent house in Lake Charles for a year after Rita, but the house he grew up in wasn't "back to normal" for another six months, he said.

Just a year and a half after they completed their home construction, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike made landfall. Weldon's family evacuated for Gustav, but the storm seemed to miss Lake Charles.

"The hurricane we evacuated for caused no damage," Weldon said.

His family decided to stay and ride out Ike, and the storm rivaled Rita in damage to their home. Although Ike caused no wind damage like Rita, it caused flooding. Weldon said his family's home had about four or five inches of water inside, which destroyed the flooring and walls. His family is now staying at his grandmother's home.

Other students endured damage from Hurricane Ike as well.

Dewon Guillory, a freshman journalism major, said a tree fell on his house, a piece of his roof flew off and some of his neighbor's property blew into his yard.

Hurricane Ike – and Hurricane Gustav – definitely affected Guillory's studies because his schoolwork got backed up and doubled.

After Hurricane Ike, Leanard Powell, a sophomore business major returned home to check on his family because Ike had damaged their house in Houston. Parts of the roof were gone, the house had flooded and the power was out.

"Some of my family can't stay in their house," Powell said.

Other Northwestern State students remained at school and contacted those in their home cities.

Tyler Maxey, a psychology and vocal performance double major stayed in constant contact with his family via text messaging, which relieved him of all worries.

At their home in Fred, Texas right outside of Beaumont, a tree fell on the porch, but Maxey said the damage was "just structural."

"It's fixable," Maxey said.

Somer Farhat, an early childhood education major, worried frantically about her family in Sulphur, La.

Although her family was not directly affected by the hurricane, they still took precautionary steps in order to avoid any misfortunes that might have occurred during this dangerous time. Her siblings, on the other hand, decided to walk around outside as the hurricane took place.

"I was scared, and I began to eat more," Farhat said.

Like many students' homes, Weldon's home may take months to repair. This destruction to his house brought back memories of Rita for Weldon, who had to spend most of his time home cleaning, working and fixing the roof with his family.

"I was just hoping we didn't have to do all that again," Weldon said.

Weldon said it was hard to be in Natchitoches and away from his family during the three hurricanes because he was worried about how much work his family would have to put into fixing their house each time.

Weldon said the worst part of the most recent hurricane damage, though, was the loss of a place to sleep when he goes home for the weekend.

"I lost my bed," Weldon said.



Courtesy Photo

The street in front of Weldon's house is completely underwater after Hurricane Ike, leaving Weldon and his neighbors with flooded homes and much to repair.

Highlighting... Hispanic Afternoon Jam session



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

The Office of Cultural Diversity and the Spanish Club host the Hispanic Afternoon Jam in the Friedman Student Union Tuesday in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
lgentry001@student.nsula.edu

Singing praises

Gospel choir warms up for fall semester



Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce

Members of the Lifted Voices Gospel Choir practice every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Wesley Campus Ministries building next to Magee's on University Parkway.

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

"Singing for God is off the chain," David Sylvester, a junior secondary education major, said as he introduced himself. With those words, the spirit of the Lifted Voices Gospel Choir came alive Thursday night at its first informational meeting of the semester.

The choir was founded in the spring of 1992 as the NSU Inspirational Mass Choir. Since then, the voices of students have provided inspiration to those on campus and in the community. Joining the choir has been a life-changing decision for Tiffany Frazier, a senior psychology major.

"I joined Lifted Voices because I love to sing, and most of all, I love Jesus Christ," Frazier said.

Frazier now serves as president of the Lifted Voices choir.

"The first time I attended rehearsal I fell in love with the people, and I have grown closer to the Lord just by being part of this organization," Frazier said.

Members of the executive board include Henry Kirts, vice president; Angelisa Watson, secretary and chaplain; Ebony Wilridge, parliamentarian and chaplain; Andrea Martin, director; and David Sylvester, musician.

Participants of the choir agree that Lifted Voices is different from other choirs on campus, and they feel most comfortable in the environment it involves.

"When I came to NSU, I thought the other choirs would be for me until I found Lifted Voices," senior business administration major Candice Ratliff said. "I've never felt unwelcome by anyone in this group, and we've all become very close friends."

Although singing is the main talent of the group, it is not the only activity the choir participates in. The members tailgate at home football games and set up fundraisers. Their performances typically take place on the weekends in churches, high schools and colleges. They also perform during the fall and spring semester on the NSU campus.

Lifted Voices rehearses every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Campus Ministries facility next to Magee's. Current NSU students and alumni are eligible to join Lifted Voices. Sylvester encourages interested students to attend, despite any negative thoughts about personal singing ability.

"It doesn't matter if you can sing. Come worship with us anyways," Sylvester said. "If you want to be spiritually fed and make lifetime friends, then this is the place for you."

Check out **thecurrentsauce.com** for a video of the Lifted Voices Gospel Choir, on-campus event slideshows and other online exclusives. We update our Web site regularly with stories, columns and breaking news.



Melrose

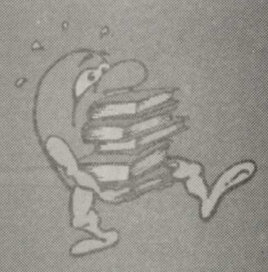
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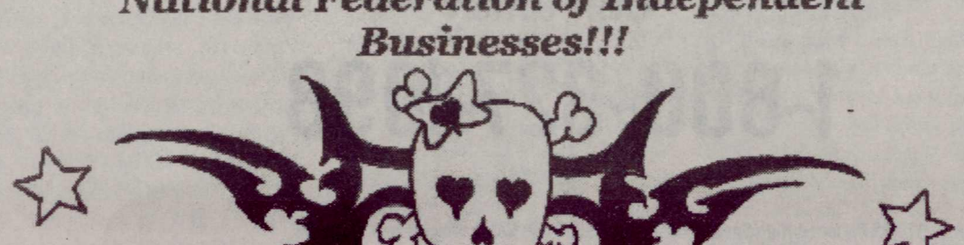
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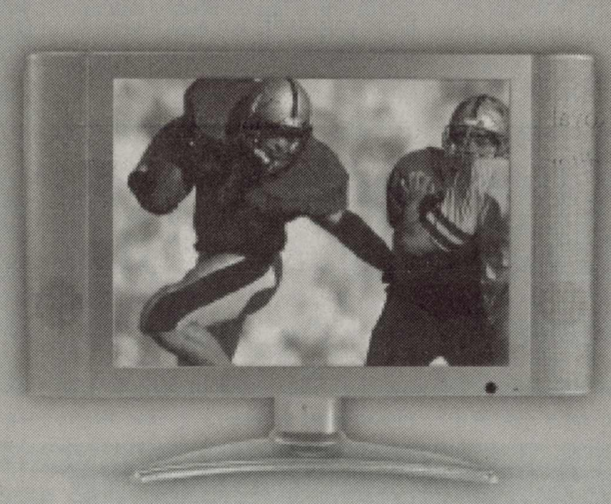
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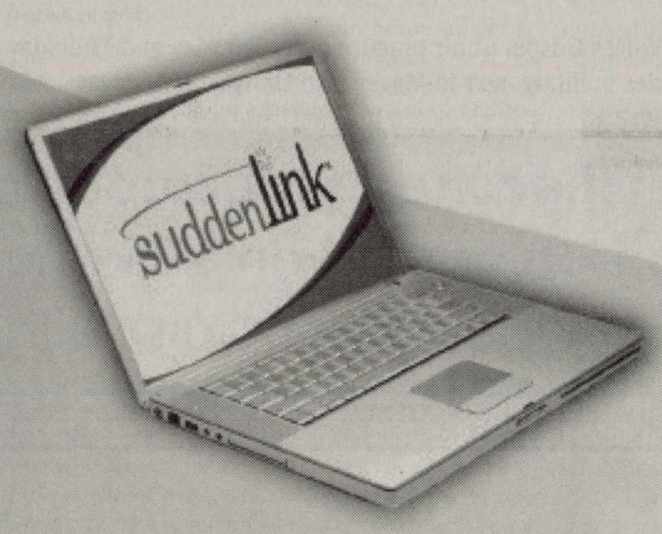
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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu
September 24, 2008

Half the Battle: Wii would like to play

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



I sure hope I didn't bore you to death last week. We've still got a part two.

Last week was all about the past. We discussed the wonderful era of the NES, PlayStation, and Sega.

Now, there are three major consoles vying for market dominance today.

The first is the xBox 360. The first "next generation" console to hit the market, the 360 had the size of its predecessor and the software to carry on the legacy.

It did offer HD-DVD capability, though eventually Sony's Blu-Ray technology won that race.

The 360 came complete with continuations of popular Microsoft series, most notably Halo 3.

Halo 3, though shorter than Halo 1 and 2, provided the same awesome gameplay and same plot depth the other two games had. Like I said, it seemed shorter than the other two, but kicking the Flood's ass was definitely a high point in Master Chief's adventure.

The release of the PlayStation 3 was wonderful news for Sony fanboys, though I found it a little depressing. The system had virtually no games that belonged solely to it.

If you weren't a hardcore Sony fan, you could have gotten a 360 cheaper and gotten the most popular games, including Guitar Hero and Rock Band.

The final system, the Nintendo Wii, was my personal choice.

The Wii sacrificed the graphics upgrades the 360 and PS3 went for, and worked for improving the already classic franchises, like Zelda and Mario.

Controller accessories are nothing new to Nintendo, but they certainly went for the motherload with the different controllers available for the Wii.

You can choose from the Wii Remote, Nunchuck, Mario Kart wheel, Wii Fit pad, Blaster, Classic controller, and the various sports adapters, like a tennis racket and golf club.

The 360 and the Wii provide software downloads from their online networks that allow you to play older games no longer sold in most game stores.

If you're interested in a big hard drive and Blu-Ray capability, then shoot for the PlayStation 3.

For quality graphics, awesome modern game series, and the best online play, your best bet is the xBox 360.

If you want superior and quality control, more interactive play, and the classic franchises the industry was built on, you want the Wii.

If you aren't interested in any of this, you probably think I should go outside.

Check out the online exclusive section of our Web site to read and comment on columns and reader polls, and sign up for breaking news sent to you by e-mail.

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Your race or your party

The heavy burden black republicans face

Robert Brown
Guest Columnist



Black republicans are considered by the rest of the black community to be walking oxymorons: How can a "brotha" or "sista" support a party that largely consists of old rich white people?

We usually see them as out of touch sellouts and "Uncle Toms" that betrayed their race once they got a new level of status or a bigger bank account.

We even so far as to consider them not black anymore once they align themselves with the republican party, or as my mother once called it, "the enemy."

To take it to another extreme, this school even has a Facebook group entitled, "Everytime I See a Black Republican, a Piece of Me Dies a Little...(nsu Chapter)."

Even though I'm a registered democrat and a firm Obama supporter, my heart goes out to black republicans this election year due to the enormous decision they face: please my party or please my people.

Do you stay loyal to your party and vote for your candidate, or do you stay loyal to your race and take part in something that has never happened before?

"When it comes to the basics...I think the republican agenda supports my beliefs, but when it comes to the election, I vote for the best candidate," NSU alumnus Sian Stanley said.

Sian, a black republican, doesn't view his party affiliation as a big deal.

"It's kind of like religion. Most people are raised in Christian households and grow up Christians, the same way most black people grow up in democrat households and automatically become democrats."

For me, that theory has a touch of merit to it.

Growing up, my mother used to preach to me how the Democratic Party was a friend of the working man and how the republicans were only out to cut taxes and keep the poor man down and the rich man up.

But at the same time, we were deeply rooted in the church, believed that marriage was only between a man and a woman and we felt strongly against abortion. In that theory, we pretty much had the same beliefs as republicans, but we just didn't want the label.

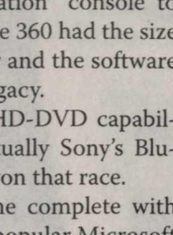
A lot of black republicans exist; they just don't know it yet.

When I asked Sian the big question – whether he will be voting for his party or for his race, his reply was, "It's not about race...It's about voting for who I think is the best candidate. If you're voting for Obama simply because he's black, you're no better than the white people who won't vote for him because he's black."

White or black, republican, democrat or independent, the fact that we can vote is sufficient enough for me.

McCain: Veteran and American hero

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



Wow, I can't believe the 2008 presidential election is almost here. This is my first year to vote, and it couldn't be a better one.

As a pro-life conservative, I want to take this time to tell you one of the reasons I am voting for John McCain as president.

In the weeks to come, I will give you facts and information about John McCain and his experiences.

This week, however, I want to talk about the man's military life.

It is hard to find where to begin, in talking about the years that were a challenge for McCain. John McCain is a third generation Navy veteran as well as a prisoner of war.

Senator McCain was in North Vietnam captivity for more than five years, spending some of that time in solitary confinement, according to Robert Timberg's book, "An American Odyssey."

During this time, he was beaten, tortured and treated worse than those who have never endured such torture can even fathom.

When McCain had been in the "Hanoi Hilton" for some time, he was given an offer to return home.

His father was an admiral in the Navy and since the head officers in Hanoi knew this, they offered him an opportunity to return home.

He declined, refusing to break the code of conduct, which states that soldiers must return home in the order that they were captured.

He could have come back and rested in the comfort of his own home and his free country, but he refused.

I don't know how much more character you could want from a president.

This is an extremely short version of McCain's years in captivity. It is an amazing story that leaves you with an appreciation for all of our soldiers.

McCain doesn't talk about the great things he did.

He talks about his gratitude and love for his country. He believes, like our founding fathers believed, that we are here to serve, not to be served.

Like I said at the beginning of this article, I will share more about John McCain outside of his military life in the next couple of weeks.

Just remember one thing when you go to the polls.

Only one of the candidates fought so that you could go to the polls. Only one was beaten and tortured for being truthful and fair. Only one candidate looks to better America instead of bettering his own personal life.

This candidate, John McCain, is the right choice for president of the United States of America.

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'CSI: Miami' premiere not worth the wait

Richelle Stephens
Guest Columnist



"CSI: Miami" is breaking my heart.

Typically I would have taken the minimalist route and left the sentiments at that, but I once had a special bond with the show.

As much as I hate to admit it, I'm not quite ready to let go. It's similar to the situation I faced with later episodes of "Frasier."

As much as I couldn't bring myself to stop watching a show I loved, the increasingly bad episodes that came once the apex of a popular show passed made for an increasing frustration on my part.

I felt as if I had to continue watching in case the relationship could be saved.

After "Resurrection," Monday night's seventh season premiere, however, I feel as though this relationship is rapidly deteriorating despite my unwillingness to let go; Frasier Crane himself couldn't even sift through this quagmire.

At the close of last season, "Miami" hero Horatio Caine took a bullet on a rain-soaked airport tarmac and was left, bloodstained Hugo Boss suit and all, to die.

Much to the shock of Horatio-philes everywhere (myself not included, for as a spoiler junkie I already knew what was to happen), a barrage of questions perforated fan forums and Facebook groups everywhere.

We eventually discovered the motives behind his being shot; Caine and the FBI fake his murder so that they may infiltrate the new market of armor-piercing bullets and take down its kingpin (who also just happens to be the main villain of season six).

However, we discover that it was all a ruse within the first 15 minutes of an hour-long show.

Not even Anakin Skywalker's transformation to the Dark Side or Harvey Dent's becoming Two Face in "The Dark Knight" occurred that quickly.

Of course, the next 20 minutes are absolutely agonizing. Everything from sub-par acting to the always ridiculous "Stargate"-esque technology used in the pastel-soaked Miami Dade Crime Lab make for an embarrassing showing.

That, and to hear "Miami" resident ray of sunshine Calleigh Duquesene open up the episode with an overblown promise of resolution in lieu of Caine's signature one-liner and sunglasses combination was a bit disappointing.

Then again, the viewer was to believe at that point he was really dead.

The only positive thing to come out of this train wreck of an episode was the performance by the always amazing Sofia Milos.

Despite losing her series regular title in 2005, Milos has made all subsequent appearances of her character Yelina Salas count; however, her typically good showing still couldn't make enough difference.

Then, of course, there was the explosive end to the episode, courtesy of the "resurrected" Caine.

A "CSI: Miami" season premiere or finale (or for that matter, any of the sweeps episodes) couldn't end any other way than with Horatio shooting something and causing an explosion, simply to stop the villain.

And all it takes is one bullet, because Horatio Caine makes it count. Every time.

Now that I look back on this episode, though, I think that unless there are serious concessions on the side of the offending party, then this relationship cannot be saved.

Prepare to pack your bags, "CSI: Miami," because I have a feeling that you'll be back to your mother's basement by midseason.

Oh, and I've been watching "The Office" on the side.

Saving the children left behind

Heath Boddie
Guest Columnist



This year we finally have a chance to end the Bush error – oops, I mean Bush era – that was started in 2000 by the United States Supreme Court and somehow was voted to be continued (which still baffles me tremendously) in 2004 until Jan. 20 of next year.

President Bush pushed through the United States Congress a law that has brought "higher standards" and accountability to the public education system with the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act.

The Act's intentions were noble in nature, but the results were anything but.

The result of the NCLB Act was the loss of creativity in our nation's classrooms, resulting in teachers teaching to a high-stakes test (mandated by the Act) and the loss of the most important classes for individuality from our schools, music and the arts.

The Act required teachers to meet higher standards, which in passing may sound like an excellent idea, but to meet the standards, the Act falls short with no extra funding allocated to the schools' districts from the federal government to help teachers meet the goals.

The Act requires students to meet national standards. To see if students meet these standards, high-stakes testing was implemented across the board.

The high-stakes testing, which is informal by nature, is forcing more and more teachers to "teach to a test," and it is missing the point of getting an education.

We should not just teach our children to take a test, but rather, we should educate them.

These tests are not allowing teachers to encourage any higher-order thinking, and it is setting a dangerous precedent for our future generations.

The Act does not address the issue of schools that are falling further behind than most – low socioeconomic minority-majority schools.

The students who attend these schools are, statistically speaking, more at risk to drop out of school and partake in a life that has no positive outcome and does not contribute back to society in any positive way. President Bush and his educational policies have failed these schools.

President Bush and his party should be ashamed of themselves for this failure.

It does not take a damn rocket scientist to understand without adequate funding to meet goals, then it is pointless to even set goals.

Now just throwing money at the stagnant education situation is not going solve what is wrong with the public education system, as evidenced by Washington D.C. spending more money on per capita of each student than any other public school district, with continually lower than average test scores.

However, with a greater focus on all subjects, including music and the arts, we can solve this problem.

Whoever is elected president in the election this November has to not follow our most esteemed President's example – and actually do something for our public education system.

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Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Outisde hitter Megan Manning picks up a dig for the Demons.

Demons find stride

Leslie Jordan
Sauce Reporter

The Demon volleyball team defeated the University of Louisiana-Monroe's Lady Warhawks Saturday to improve their season record to 4-3. The Demons shot down the Lady Warhawks in four games with a score of 25-19, 19-25, 25-12, 25-19.

Leading the Demons with 20 kills was junior outside hitter Yelena Enwere, who also led the team in points with 24.

Next in line was senior outside hitter Angelica Cruz, who smashed nine kills, while sophomores Taylor Deering and Laranda Spann, and junior Markie Robichau tied on the hitting board with six apiece. Deering also picked up 11 digs.

Leading in assists for the Demons was junior setter Meagan Dockery with 42, who also chipped in with 11 digs. Outside hitter Zanny Castillo led the team on the defensive side with 19.

"We have been practicing hard for weeks to prepare for our 20 games, focusing on our mottos, better the ball and help each other out," sophomore outside hitter and libero Megan Manning said.

The Demons started conference play and hosted their first home game last week.

For their first conference match, the Demons traveled to Conway to face the Central Arkansas Sugar Bears losing in three games with a score of 19-25, 24-26 and 21-25.

They came back the next day to sweep Arkansas-Pine Bluff in three games with a score of 25-16, 25-15 and 25-16.

During the opening home games, the Demons lost their opener to the Ragin' Cajuns of University of Louisiana-Lafayette with a score of 22-25, 27-29, 25-22 and 20-25.

"We didn't show up for the first home game," head coach Brittany Uffelman said. "We might as well have been in class."

The Demons redeemed themselves the second home game with a comeback win over the Grambling State Lady Tigers (25-21, 25-21, 25-14).

The Demons will host conference competitor McNeese State University Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Health and Human Performance building and then will turn around and face Stephen F. Austin Sept. 27.

"As long as we keep playing as a team and hustling for every ball we will hold up strong in the next coming games," Robichau said.

Upcoming Home Games

Sept. 25	Volleyball vs. McNeese State*	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Soccer vs. Southern	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	Football vs. SE. OK State	6 p.m.
Sept. 29	NSU Invitational (Cross Country)	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	Volleyball vs. Stephen F. Ausitn*	7 p.m.

* denotes Southland Confrence game

Mustangs stampede Demons

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

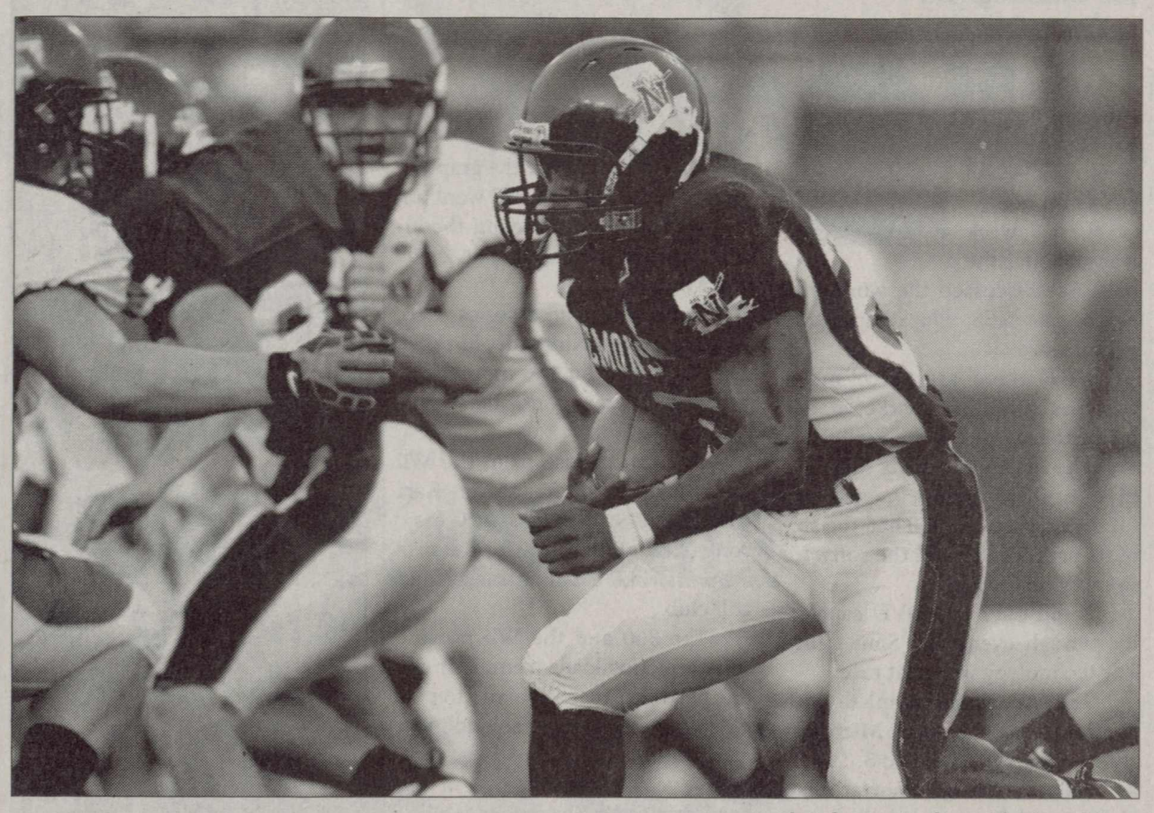


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Senior running back Byron Lawrence (22) carries the ball for the Demons in their 52-18 loss to Cal Poly.

The 13th ranked Cal Poly Mustangs (2-1) lived up to full potential as they handed the Northwestern State Demons (2-2) their first home loss and second loss of the season, 52-18.

The Demons struggled from the start, surrendering a touchdown to Cal Poly's high octane offense only 2:05 into the game. The Demons were forced to punt after six plays on its opening drive. The Mustangs' offense was too much for the Purple Swarm to handle, leading 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

NSU scored on its opening possession of the second quarter after senior running back Byron Lawrence powered his way in from five yards. The Mustangs answered, scoring on their next two possessions, extending their lead 28-7.

Senior kicker Robert Weeks added a 25-yard field goal for the Demons with 42 seconds remaining in the half.

Head coach Scott Stoker's squad stalled on its first drive of the second half, losing five yards on three plays. Cal Poly scored another touchdown on its ensuing possession, putting the game out of reach, 35-10. Cal Poly added 10 more points in the third quarter.

Senior wide receiver Adam Varnado caught a 25-yard-touchdown pass from junior quarterback John Hundley to cap off a 4-play, 80-yard drive to end the third quarter scoring, 45-18.

Cal Poly scored the only points of the fourth quarter on a Jono Grayson 7-yard touchdown run, giving the Mustangs a 52-18 dominating win over the Demons.

"We got beat in all three phases. It is what it is. There's no need to point fingers. We've got to work harder next week with conference only three weeks away," head coach Scott Stoker said.

"We're going to have to forget about this game. We had a lot of players that weren't in the right spot," senior linebacker Mack Dampier added.

The Demons are preparing for their game against Southeast Oklahoma State.

"We've got to put the game behind us and work hard. Everybody came out and played hard. No one gave up, no one quit. We just have to get over it and move on," junior defensive back Wesley Eckles said.

Southeast Oklahoma State will enter Turpin Stadium 1-3, coming off a 59-10 loss to Abilene Christian. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.

Saying goodbye to 'Baseball's Cathedral'

Yankee Stadium to be demolished after 85 years of baseball history

Matt Fowler
Guest Columnist

Sept. 21, 2008 is a day that will live on in Major League Baseball history for years to come as Yankee Stadium saw its last game played Sunday.

The Yankees, who will not make the playoffs, beat the Orioles 7-3.

Yankee Stadium, commonly referred to as "The House that Ruth Built," will be demolished after the end of the current season.

Yankee Stadium holds history that not only belongs to baseball, but football, boxing, concerts and even visits from the Pope.

This morning, the gates were opened early so fans of the Yankees could take a walk around the field.

After that, many of the Yankee greats came to pay their last respects to the field and started collecting items such as cups of dirt off of the pitching mound, chips of concrete from various walls and pictures of the world famous Monument Park that is housed behind the left field wall.

It was a very emotional day, as fans, players and management reflected on the times that Yankee stadium has seen.

They began to realize exactly how much the stadium has meant to sports history and even history itself.

Yankee Stadium was the site of worship services for the Pope.

It was the site of Lou Gehrig's speech, which includes the line "I feel I am the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

For all the "Rudy" fans, it was the site of the "Win one for the Gipper" speech.

Then it was the site of a very emotional and uplifting World Series after Sept. 11. That World Series saw back-to-back ninth inning Yankee comebacks.

Also, after Sept. 11, President Bush came out of the dugout by himself, went atop the mound, and threw a perfect strike for the opening pitch.

Yankee Stadium has hosted 37 world championship series and housed 26 world championship teams.

The final game provided a plethora of emotions, including sadness, reflection, happiness and joy.

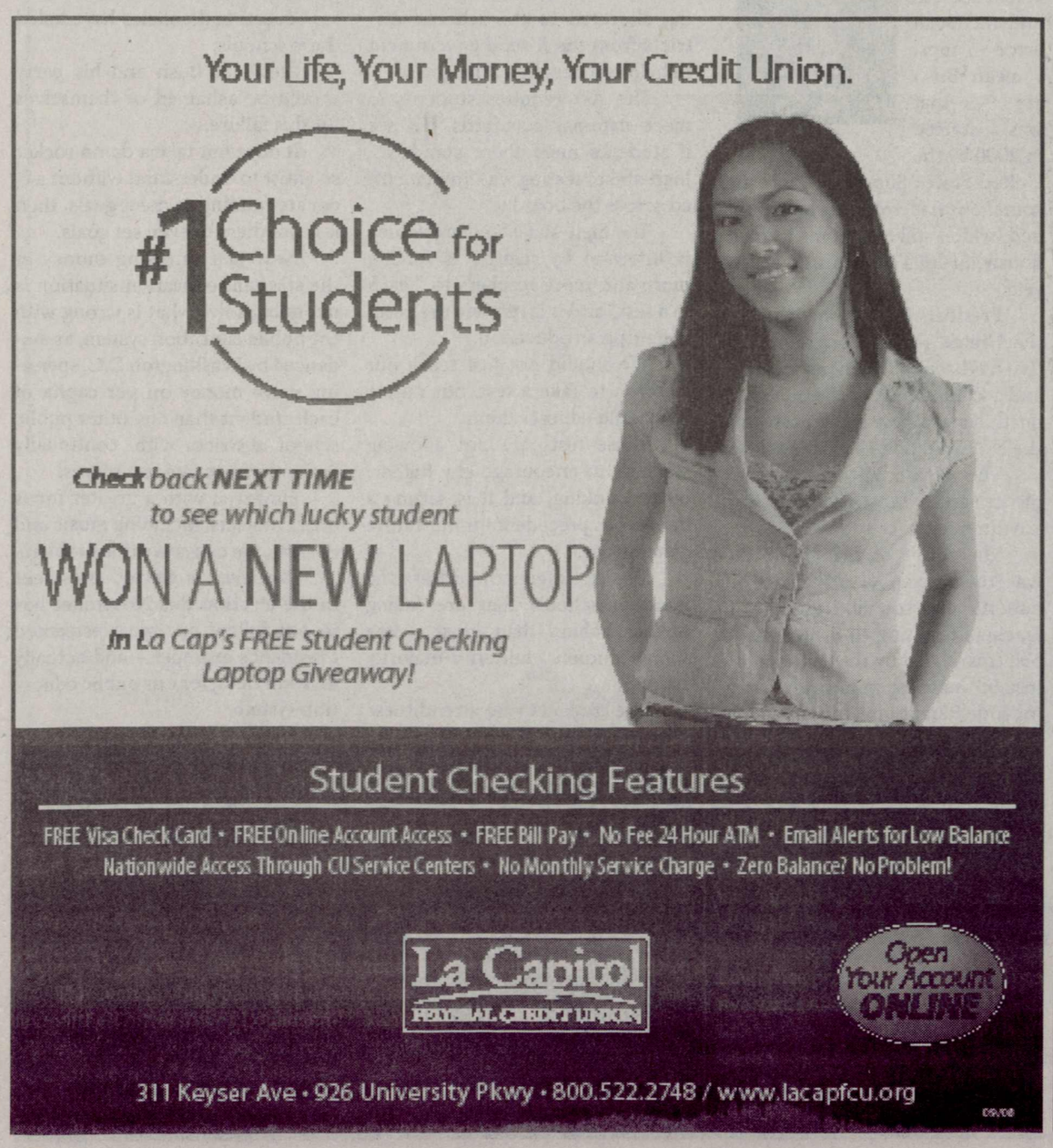
The game was won by a strong start by Andy Pettitte received the last win in the stadium.

Two home runs were hit by Johnny Damon and Jose Molina.

Molina hit the last home run in the stadium, but Damon would have been a better fit for the last one because his story is close to the same as Babe Ruth's, who hit the first home run in Yankee Stadium.

Then, of course, you cannot have the end of Yankee stadium without Mariano Rivera closing out the game in the ninth inning.

After the game, the entire Yankee team and coaching staff took a lap around the field, tipping their caps to the "world's best fans," as Yankee captain Derek Jeter said.



Demons run past in-state rivals

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU soccer team seemed to stabilize its roller coaster ride of a season this weekend with home games against Centenary and the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

It started last Friday against the Ladies of Centenary with a one to nothing victory.

"This was a very big win. We have played a very difficult schedule, which was by design. But, in playing a hard schedule you have to keep your confidence up, and that's exactly what this win did for us. It helped our confidence in a huge way," head coach Jimmy Mitchell said.

Gabrielle Assayag scored the Demons' lone goal in the 40th minute from around 20 yards out.

Also, goalkeeper Lindy Strahan scored the shutout by stopping the one shot on goal by Centenary.

The Demons had more shots on goal than the Ladies 5-1.

Even though a chief concern of Mitchell's was the fatigue of his team because of the game on Friday, the Demons had no problem out-dueling the Ragin' Cajuns 2-1.

"They are a very good team. We are fairly even. They play fast and hard from end to end. They are in the same situation that we are. They have played a very tough schedule," Mitchell said.

The two goals were scored by Kayce Schultz and Haley Cheshier. Chelsea Brozgold got the assist on both goals.

Demon goalkeeper Lindy Strahan notched her second straight win as she stopped three of four shots on goal by the Ragin' Cajuns.

"We got out to a great start but didn't deliver the knockout punches. We had a chance to put them away, and they were on their heels, but we didn't get it done. They fought back and made us play 90 minutes to earn the win," Mitchell said.

To start the season, the Demons were 1-3-0, but have turned it around in their last five going, 3-1-1, improving their out-of-conference record to 4-4-1.

"We're playing a lot of freshmen.We're getting healthy and we've played a lot of good competition. I get frustrated as a coach. We don't pick and choose games, winning is winning. We don't change our approach too much," Mitchell said.

The Demons look to continue their winning ways this Friday. They will host the Southern Lady Jagua at the Demon Soccer Complex at 7 p.m. before opening conference play at UCA October 5th.

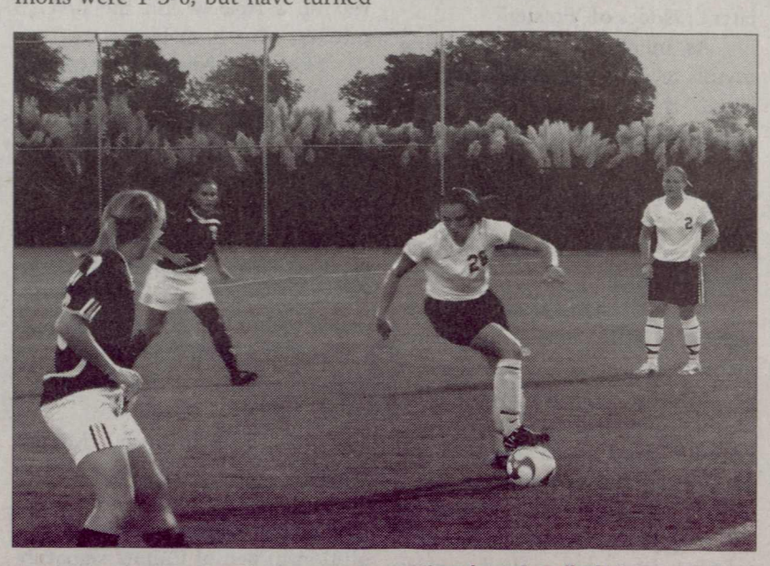


Photo by Andy Bullard/The Current Sauce

Midfielder Sarah Sadler (26) weaves through Centenary defend-

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Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 ◆ Volume 94: Issue 8

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Student calls for more fan support at games.

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Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Weather

Wednesday 84°/53°

Thursday 86°/53°

Friday 86°/58°

Saturday 83°/61°

Sunday 86°/61°

Monday 86°/62°

Tuesday 83°/60°

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Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Students gather in the Friedman Student Union to cast their votes for SGA senators, SGA's 16 proposed amendments and homecoming court. The SGA and SAB worked together to ensure that the voting process went as smoothly and quickly as possible for students.

SGA prepares to shift into high gear

David Royal
News Editor

After last week's Student Government Association senator elections, the SGA now hopes to address some of the major issues at NSU.

Although not all senatorial positions were filled -- three positions are available for each class – SGA president Cody Bourque said he was nevertheless pleased with the turnout.

"I was excited by the number of students who ran. Now, I want to prove to these underclassmen that SGA is a worthwhile organization," Bourque said.

The student body elected three sophomores, and thus far, two freshmen. The third freshman senator will be determined in a runoff election today.

One senior and three juniors were approved to be senators by acclamation.

Along with the elections for senator, students also voted and approved the 16 amendments to the SGA constitution, which the SGA approved at its first meeting.

In this week's meeting, Bourque said the passing of these amendments have "cleaned up the constitution."

In comparison to the 16 bills SGA passed at its first meeting, SGA has voted on very little legislation in the past two weeks.

Bourque said he plans for that to change in the next few weeks.

With the elections essentially complete, Bourque said SGA members can now put all of their focus on addressing the students' needs.

One issue that SGA has already begun discussing is providing students with a better Internet source off campus.

Bourque said the SGA is working with Jennifer Long and the Student Technology Advisory Team (STAT) to determine the feasibility of replacing the current dial-up connection that is available to the students with a more efficient and practical connection.

At this point, Bourque said the SGA's collaboration with STAT is still in the beginning phase, but added that the SGA will have a definite plan of action by the end of the semester.

Within the next month, Bourque said members of SGA will dedicate a great deal of time to evaluating NSU's student fee system.

In Monday's meeting, Bourque and treasurer Lauren Michel were appointed members of the Student Self-Assessed Fee Oversight Committee, which consists of NSU officials and students.

By doing so, Michel said the SGA has taken a "very minor step" closer to addressing the financial needs of the SGA and its students.

Bourque said his goal is to determine whether or not part-time students, in the future, should be charged the SGA activity fee of $425, and if so, what stipulations should apply.

Currently, part-time students are not charged a fee for SGA, yet they are still considered to be part of the student body in the SGA's constitution.

Bourque said one change that he might suggest to the focus group is to charge the fee to part-time students who take more than six hours of on-campus classes – the Student Activities Board has recently adopted a similar method.

"We will always be there to stand up for what the students need, but we also need the funds to do so," Bourque said.

SGA's decision on the future of student fees will also affect SGA's plans for another issue concerning scholarships within the association.

At the beginning of the semester, Bourque said he wished to ultimately reduce the sum awarded to the executive board so that more of the SGA's budget could be dedicated to the students.

This week, Bourque assured that he does in fact still feel the same way.

"We do deserve the scholarships we get, but I want the money to go to the students first," Bourque said.

Bourque added, however, that other members of the SGA have made it clear that they would like to look into possibly increasing the amount given in scholarships, or making scholarships available to other SGA members, such as committee heads.

Bourque said he and his executive board members, vice president Mark Daniels and treasurer Lauren Michel, will keep an open mind while addressing the matter this week, but Bourque said he hopes that, in the end, at least 50 percent of the SGA's funding will go toward the students and not scholarships.

Both Daniels and Michel declined to speak about their plans or hopes concerning SGA scholarships until they have had the opportunity to discuss the matter further with Bourque.

Additionally, Bourque explained that SGA's committees have also begun working to improve certain aspects of the university. Some of the committees' plans include working with Sodexo to provide refreshments to students in the Friedman Student Union during midterm week and ensuring that all areas of parking are being rightfully designated to students.

Bourque said students can expect to see members of SGA voting on more legislation by the end of

South Korean exchange suffers low participation

Education department reschedules trip, allowing time to attract more applicants

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

NSU education and English majors have the opportunity to teach in South Korea, but low participation numbers have canceled this semester's scheduled trip.

Kioh Kim, the South Korea exchange coordinator who initiated the relationship between NSU and the Chungnam Office of Education, faces a problem this semester.

The first application deadline was at the beginning of September – but with only two signed up, it is not enough.

Now, students will only be able to teach in South Korea in the spring semester, assuming there will be enough students signed up by then.

Kim, assistant professor of education technology, said the Chungnam Office of Education was disappointed by the low number of participants.

Kim said it costs the office of education the same amount of money for two American teachers as it does for 20, providing transportation costs, housing and other expenses.

They simply could not have accepted only two.

Last spring, two NSU and five Louisiana Tech students went to South Korea to teach in the classrooms for two months.

Last fall, the first organized exchange of NSU students to South Korea had five from NSU.

Kim said he is the only person coordinating and recruiting for this exchange program.

He has gone to LA Tech and given lectures about the program, but he can only do so much.

He is hoping to spread the word with the help of former Korean exchange students and students waiting to go, like Donyelle Clark.

Clark, a senior English major, learned about the South Korean exchange program organized by NSU while reading The Current Sauce.

She read the story about 30 South Korean teachers' trip to NSU over the summer, and when she got to the bottom of the story, she learned that NSU sends students to South Korea.

In a class later that same day, Clark sat next to Hollie Alvarez, who taught in South Korea last spring and presented a paper about her experiences.

The two spent the rest of the class whispering back and forth about South Korea.

Clark said she felt like there was a reason those two events followed each other, not just a coincidence. She spoke with Kim the next day and started preparing for the trip.

She needed a passport, two letters of recommendation, an essay detailing why she wanted to teach in South Korea and at least a 2.5 GPA as an undergraduate. Graduate students are required to have a 3.0.

Clark wants to be a speech pathologist. She figured working with pronunciation and phonetics while teaching English as a second language could help her work toward that goal.

"I just thought that it would be a good life experience and would benefit the career I plan to pursue," Clark said. "Especially since Northwestern doesn't offer a speech pathology program, so if I have something like that [teaching in Korea], it'll benefit me when applying to grad schools."

Clark was in a rush to get things in order for her to leave in mid-October for South Korea, but now she has more time to prepare since it has been delayed to mid-March.

She also said it may be better for her this way because she hates the cold and will not have to miss any major holidays like she would have from October to December.

"It was a bit overwhelming at first, but I wasn't going to miss this opportunity," Clark said.

Alvarez, a senior education major, only had a month to prepare for her trip to South Korea last spring, but she said she knew that was where she needed to be.

"The week before [I left], people would be asking me if I was nervous, and I wasn't; I really wasn't. I was ready," Alvarez said. "It was something I needed for myself."

Alvarez taught classes at the third level of South Korean middle school, equivalent to American ninth grade. She said it was everything she could have wanted and more.

Alvarez went to South Korea as a junior and took NSU online classes to stay on track.

Education seniors would have to sit out a semester, because teaching in South Korea does not count toward the hours of student teaching required in order to graduate.

English majors may not have as much of a setback, since they can still continue all of their courses online.

Clark said Alvarez advised her to stay on top of her online homework and studies while in South Korea because time management can become an issue. Clark said she is not worried.

"I was going to be a semester behind because of the minor I picked anyway. So even if I was supposed to be graduating in May and now I'm going to Korea and it pushes me back to December – like, what's that compared to an experience like Korea?" Clark said.

"I'm in college to make myself competitive and I think this is one of those things that would really help, so what's one semester to better yourself and benefit you in your area of study?"

David Royal
News Editor
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October 1, 2008

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Chinese Restaurants
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Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

During the lunch rush at Vic's, students select entrees, snacks and refreshments to fuel their hectic routines. This week, SGA and Sodexo plan to implement a quality assessment program in which "mystery shoppers" will infiltrate on-campus dining locations and evaluate the service Sodexo employees provide.

Mystery shoppers stake out Sodexo

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Students in Vic's who appear to be casually working on their homework might actually have something more mysterious up their sleeves.

Sodexo general manager Vance Howe teamed up with the Student Government Association this week to collect constructive criticism and comments that may improve students' campus dining experience.

The program will start this week if Howe can find at least two students willing to participate in his new "Mystery Shopper" program.

He plans to add $50 to the meal plan of each shopper as well as questionnaires to use while ranking the quality of the food and service they encounter. The students must keep their shopper identities secret and avoid tipping off any of the Sodexo employees.

A mystery shopper must eat at each location – Iberville and Vic's – about once a week, Howe said.

He said he will also consider sending student shoppers to the C-Store on campus – and Grill 155°, once its new location opens later in the semester.

Because the plans are still in the early stages, Howe may reconsider the project depending on the amount of students who are intrigued enough to apply.

"I don't even know if there are any students interested in doing this," Howe said.

Howe developed his plan after a discussion with SGA vice president Mark Daniels and student affairs commissioner Jason Thibodeaux.

"It's a partnership," Howe said. "We want to make sure that we're both on the same page and we're working together to improve dining services."

Daniels met with Howe after he and SGA president Cody Bourque visited Iberville around 6:20 p.m. earlier this semester and found many of the serving lines closed. The salad bar was taken apart, and employees were no longer serving French fries, despite the boiling hot oil in the fryer, Daniels said.

Closing down 40 minutes early is unacceptable for a cafeteria on a college campus, Daniels said.

Some SGA senators conducted an informal mystery shopper program of their own last semester, writing down some of the issues they noticed while dining at Vic's and Iberville, Daniels said.

Thibodeaux, a sophomore history major, said he and other SGA members have noted that the long lines and monotonous menus could definitely see some improvement.

This week is "crunch time" for the mystery shopper project, so Thibodeaux said he plans to fill out paperwork and meet with Howe to finalize things as soon as possible.

He is also on the lookout for potential mystery shoppers.

"I had talked to a few students, and they were really excited about something, some kind of program like that that would help the students," Thibodeaux said.

Thibodeaux said the SGA is looking for honest opinions regarding the "all-around experience" of dining at Vic's and Iberville.

One of Thibodeaux's priorities would be to keep more than one register open between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to cut down on wait time, he said.

Daniels also said that because Grill 155° may be open as late as 10 p.m. once it opens, he suggested temporarily keeping Iberville open later so that there will be at least one dining area open on campus after 7 p.m. in the meantime.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

While prices are set by Sodexo, other aspects of on-campus dining - such as food variety and speedy service - may be influenced by the secret shopper project. Student affairs commissioner Jason Thibodeaux hinted that a student-designed menu may also be in the works.

Howe plans to take these problems – as well as those discovered by the mystery shoppers – into consideration.

Daniels, who works as a chef for Mama's and Papa's restaurants on Front Street, said he is familiar with the culinary industry and mystery shopper programs.

The method has been a part of the restaurant industry for years. Owners and managers implement similar programs to keep tabs on their workers and make sure every entrée meets standards.

The mystery shopper program may be followed by a comment card system for students who want to offer their feedback.

Howe even plans to display a board comparing the time the mystery shoppers express their concerns with the time it takes to solve the problems.

"That way, you can actually see that there's something being done," Howe said.

Daniels said he has enjoyed working with Howe, the third general manager NSU has seen in the last three years.

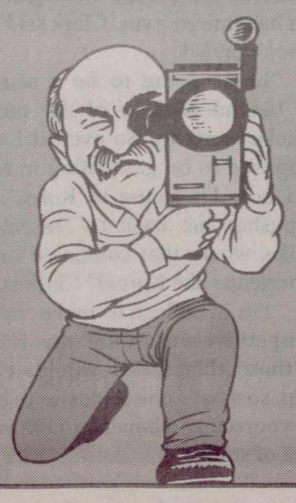
The mystery shopper program will have students paying attention to what they eat – and to the students around them.

Knock three names off the list of people who may be mystery shoppers, though. Because Daniels, Bourque and Thibodeaux brought the issue of campus dining improvement to light, they've decided to stay on the business side.

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Correction:

Last week's article "New scholarship breaks record" stated that the $10,000 scholarship donated in Ray K. Baumgardner's name will be the largest scholarship ever offered by NSU. This information was incorrect.

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ROTC reinforcements arrive

New staff brings ideas, incentives to NSU cadets

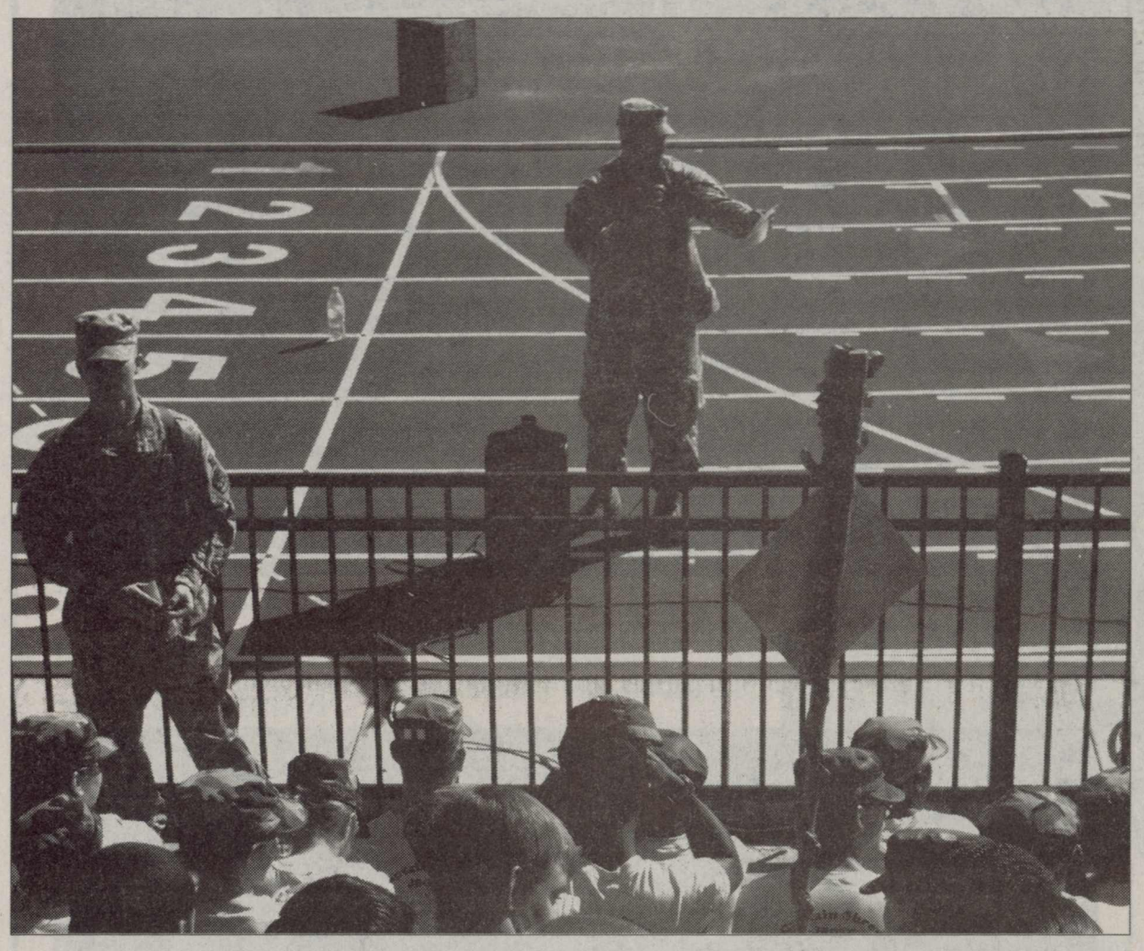


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Captain Jaison Koonankeil gives the JROTC cadets a safety briefing at the track before the Demon Challenge begins on Saturday. Koonakeil focused on the importance of staying hydrated.



Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Sergeant First Class Raymond McDowell hooks up a JROTC cadet to one of the ropes events at the Demon Challenge.

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

As the enrollment in Northwestern State's Army ROTC program skyrocketed, a request for new staff members was made. The Army provided the necessary assistance.

"I was very pleased and happy that the Army has responded and sent more people due to the increased enrollment," Lieutenant Col. Lee Pennington, professor of military science, said.

This semester eight members have been added to the staff, and they all are here on assignment.

Maj. Stevie Smith, a ROTC graduate from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, serves as the battalion's enrollment and scholarship officer and the executive officer.

In the future, Smith said his main objective will be to continue to increase the number of students both entering and graduating from the program.

"The ROTC program can work closely with the faculty and staff at NSU because ROTC and NSU share a common goal, which is to try to bring students to NSU," Smith said.

Capt. Jaison Koonankeil, who graduated from the ROTC program from the University of Connnecticut in 2001, will instruct military science students and serve as the operational officer.

Because he recently graduated from the ROTC program, Koonankeil said he looks forward to sharing his past experiences with NSU's cadets.

"I have learned that I must treat the cadets like adults because they will eventually be in charge of the lives of the sons and daughters of America," Koonankeil said.

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond McDowell serves as the acting senior military instructor.

McDowell works with the ropes course at NSU and is in charge of the cadets' physical fitness training.

McDowell is also supervising the Ranger Challenge team, which will be competing in October at Fort Benning, Ga.

By the end of the academic year McDowell said he hopes NSU students will not just perceive the ROTC cadets as students who wake up early and run around the campus.

"NSU's ROTC program can be improved by getting us out into campus and having interactions with the other students on campus," McDowell said.

Other additions to the battalion's staff include Christie Price, who serves as the battalion secretary; Myron McWashington and Dennis Montgomery, who serve as the human resources technicians; and retired Sgt. Maj. Pat Towle, who serves as the supply technician.

One significant change that the new staff members have already brought to NSU's battalion is the hosting of the Demon Challenge.

The ROTC cadets and staff held the first Demon Challenge Saturday at the ropes course.

About 150 JROTC cadets from six high schools in Louisiana participated in this event.

The participating schools were Leesville High School, Natchitoches Central High School, North Desoto High School, Washington-Marion High School, Captain Shreve High School and C.E. Byrd High School.

Participants competed in four obstacles on the ropes course.

They also took a written exam and a map reading test.

Smith explained that the primary mission for the JROTC cadets in the Demon Challenge was to test their military knowledge, personal courage and teamwork skills.

Smith said the goal of NSU's ROTC program, however, was to build a relationship with the high school cadets and to promote the program.

Smith said his cadets did their part and made the Demon Challenge a great success.

He added that in the years to come, Demon Challenge will only be bigger and better.

He hopes the ROTC program will continue to head in the right direction this year, Smith said in an interview.

Boost in enrollment lifts spirits

Asya Mitchem
Staff Reporter

Have you ever thought of Northwestern State as a small university because of its lack of students? Well, think again.

NSU officials have seen an increase in enrollment for the 2008 fall semester.

Last year there was a total of 9,037 students enrolled at NSU. There are now a total of 9,111 students attending NSU for the fall.

The main increase was seen in the number of part-time and online students attending the university.

This is the first time NSU has had a fall increase since selective admission began in the fall of 2005.

Students attending NSU originate from all 64 parishes in Louisiana, other states and even foreign countries.

"This reminds us that NSU is statewide," university president Randall J. Webb said. Webb also said online classes are being taught throughout the country and around the world.

Senior secondary education, business and math major Sharai Adesola said she enjoys being a student at NSU.

"I think it is great, although parking is not the best. The school has been revitalized as far as events and students being active on campus," Adesola said.

Kevin Sherman, a senior business administration major, said he is optimistic about the new enrollment figures.

"The increase is a positive aspect for students because it shows that the university is giving students a chance at seeking a higher education," Sherman said.

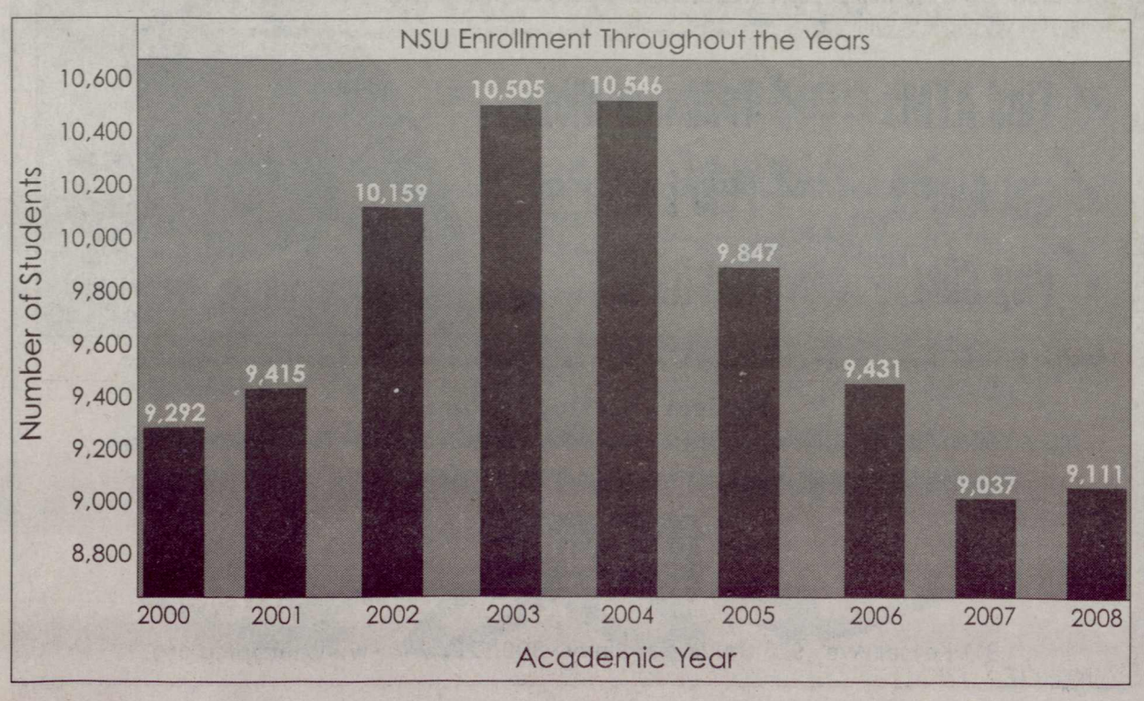
One student, however, was a little more skeptical of the increase in enrollment.

"NSU usually always has a large number of students in the fall for various reasons such as freshmen excited to leave home, the location being in a historic town and some students come here for the heck of it. However, in spring semester the numbers decrease. Maybe some students didn't make the grades or college life is not for them. Others may not be able to afford to come back," Milzokiya Wilson, a senior double major, said.

The increase in enrollment does not affect student fees in any way. Student fees were slightly increased at other Louisiana universities to offset additional cost. Now, different institutions throughout Louisiana can continue to provide their students with different facilities and activities.

Webb said the enrollment increase was "wonderful," and added that it emphasizes NSU's history.

"It affords students to go to college from a variety of geographical areas [and] enriches the educational experience," Webb said.



Police Blotter

9/25

12:43 p.m.- Small fire in smoking canteen found between Kyser Hall and Post Office

9/28

2:10 p.m.- Pitt bull found on track by Chaplain's Lake

2:26 p.m.- Owner of pitt bull located

6:48 p.m.- Call-in reporting that students are playing on football field in Turpin Stadium

6:49 p.m.- Officer arrives at Turpin Stadium and ends situation

9/29

3:25 p.m.- Child is reported missing

3:54 p.m.- Child is found in Natatorium

****The Current Sauce collects the police blotter each week from the Campus Police department.**

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
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October 1, 2008

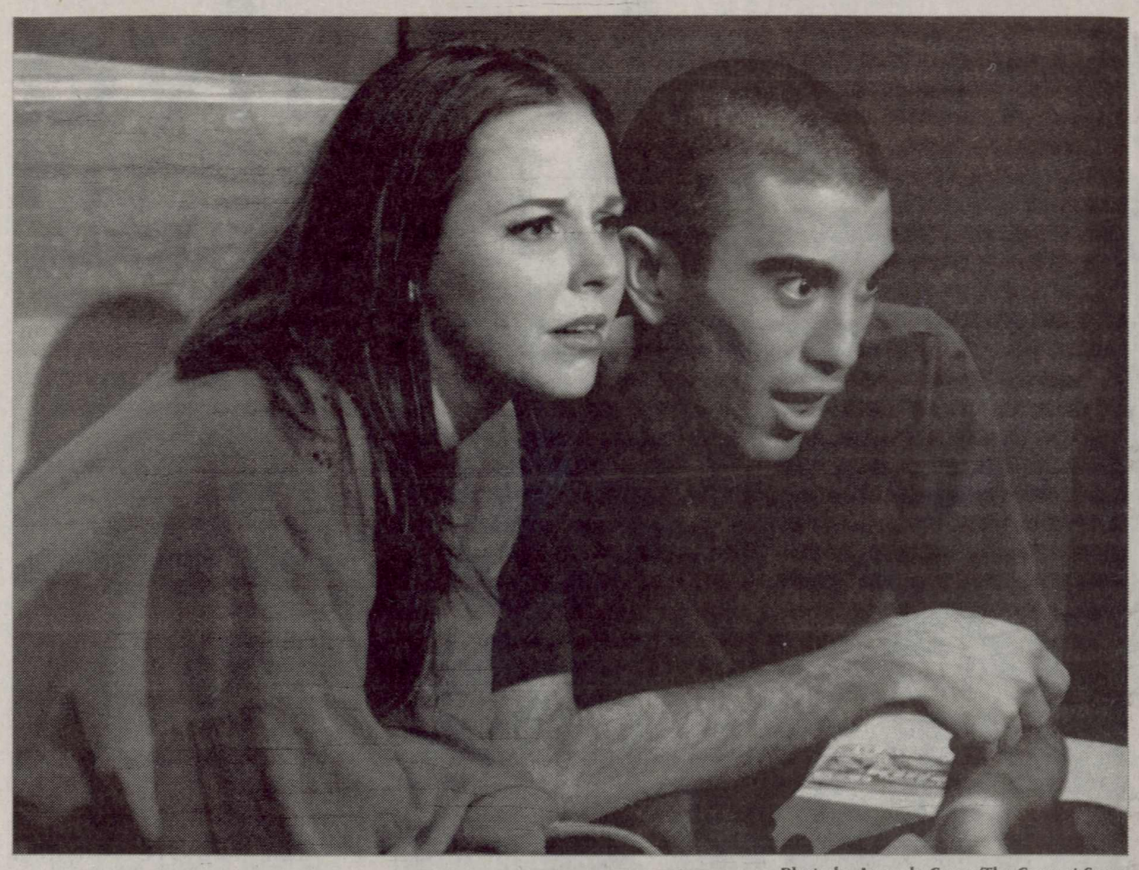


Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce

Theatre students Jennifer Collins and Ryan Hazelbaker stand out in "Lives of the Saints."

'Saints' tie seven acts into one show

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

Opening night jitters didn't get the best of Jennifer Collins and fellow cast members.

"Lives of the Saints" debuted on Sept. 24 to a full house in Theatre West. As the set for the first scene came together piece by piece, the audience was left with very little knowledge as to what the night would bring.

"My nerves hit me about 10 minutes before the show started," Collins, a senior musical theatre major said. "I was extremely nervous, and it spread to everyone else before we went on stage."

"Lives of the Saints" is a compilation of seven one-act plays by David Ives, performed by six NSU students.

The production is the first NSU performance to utilize the new audio and visual equipment that was purchased with student technology fees. As the first cast to use the new features, they were uncertain about how the production would come together opening night.

"The videos and images on the screen were definitely a challenge to incorporate into the show and extra rehearsals were needed to work out mistakes," senior theatre major Regan McLellan said. "There is no room for error in live theatre."

The opening act, "The Mystery at Twicknam Vicarage," is a murder mystery where the character Jeremy, played by Ryan Hazelbaker, is shot.

Inspector Dexter of the Scotland Yard, played by McLellan, tries to solve the crime with help from Sarah, played by Angela Kang, Mona, played by Elizabeth Bigger, and Roger, played by Josiah Kennedy. With twists, turns and adult humor, the mystery is solved and the case is closed.

"Enigma Variations" is a mirror-image act where two characters speak and act while the other two follow their every move. Jennifer Collins joins Kang, Kennedy, Hazelbaker and McLellan, who serves as the assistant, on stage as they take turns acting out the duplicating roles. With six other acts to practice, rehearsals for perfecting the copycat movements were moved to personal time outside of the theater.

"People will never know the amount of work we put into rehearsing," Collins said. "We live close enough to each other that we can practice after regular rehearsal hours are over."

"Babel's in Arms" is the story of two Babylonian blue-collar workers, McLellan and Hazelbaker, who have to build the Tower of Babel. The priestess (Bigger) along with the eunuch (Kennedy) come to bless the tower they have built.

The business woman (Collins) gives the workers strict orders to build the tower or suffer great consequences. The pair of workers figure out a way to resolve their construction problem and manage not to laugh and break character as the audience hysterically laughs at their performance.

"I think the more I take my character's situation seriously the easier it is to stay in the moment and not to laugh," McLellan said. "If that doesn't work, I bite the inside of my mouth."

"Soap Opera" is the story of a repairman (McLellan), who falls for a washing machine, Collins. However, he finds himself in love with Mabel (Kang) and must choose between the two loves of his life.

With help from his friend (Kennedy) and the maitre d' (Hazelbaker), the repairman finds happiness in his life and settles for the better woman. After a brief intermission, the cast returns with "Lives of the Saints," where Collins and Bigger are on stage alone preparing breakfast for a funeral service.

Visual and audio images are of the essence in this performance as Hazelbaker, Kang, McLellan and Kennedy provide the visual and audio effects for the scene via a prerecorded video. Flo, played by Collins, and Edna, played by Bigger, are alone on the stage and rely on each other to perform the scene.

"Liz is such a great scene partner," Collins said. "Everyone is great to work with, but we just have so much fun with that scene with it just being the two of us."

"Arabian Nights" is the story of Norman (McLellan), who finds his way into a shop owned by Flora, played by Bigger, looking for a souvenir to remember his travels. They find themselves in a whirlwind romance, spurred on by a wacky interpreter, Kang.

"Captive Audience" is a cautionary fable that tells how Rob (Hazelbaker) and Laura (Collins) face a menace in their living room: a television that talks back to them and threatens to swallow them whole. The scene incorporates a pre-recorded Kang and Kennedy as the people on the television who seem to put words into the mouths of the characters.

"Ryan and I know each other's lines very well, so we are able to go with it as it happens," Collins said. "We all pretty much have to know everyone's part just in case something does happen."

After a standing ovation, the audience was invited to mingle with cast and crew members at a reception in the Orville Hanchey Art Gallery. As people munched on finger sandwiches and sipped on punch, people discussed their favorite parts of the show with each other and filled the gallery with laughter.

"I thought it was hilarious and thought-provoking," sophomore theatre major Jessi Garrison said. "It pushed boundaries, and I loved it!"

"Everyone in the cast worked very well together, and it was incredible," sophomore business major Sarah Boudreaux said.

As opening night of "Lives of the Saints" ended, cast members were given a taste of how their time and effort paid off.

Students who missed opening night can still catch the show, which will be performed every night at 7:30 until Oct. 3. The production contains adult humor and may not be suitable for children 13 and under.

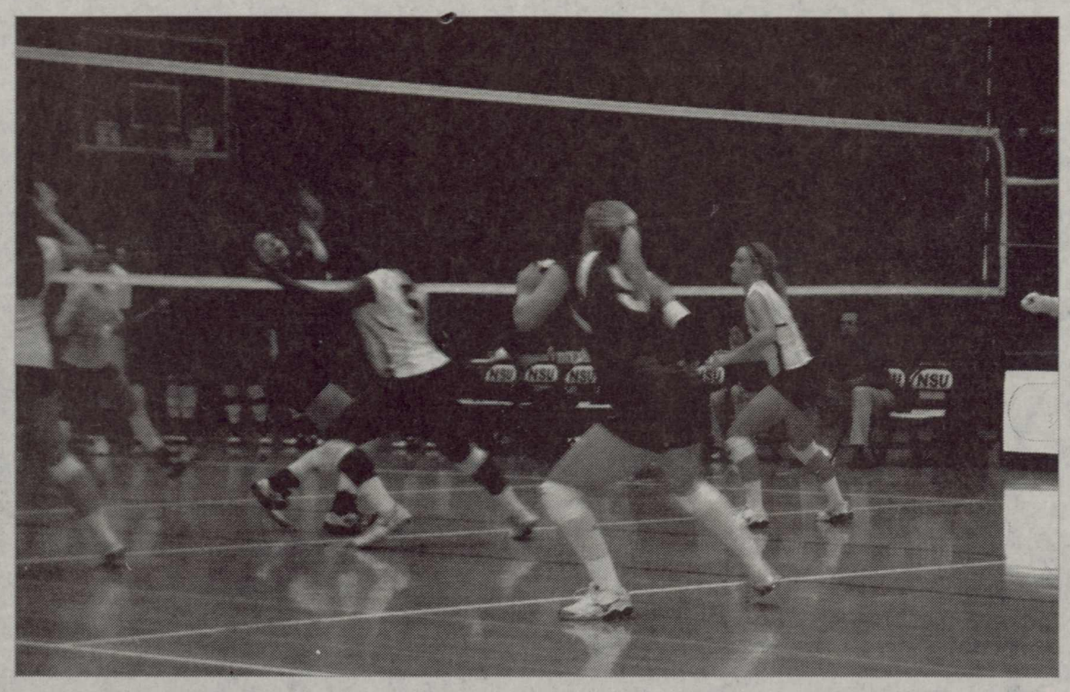
"This play is so hysterical and really offers something for everyone," McLellan said "If you get the chance, come and see it. You won't regret it!"



Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce

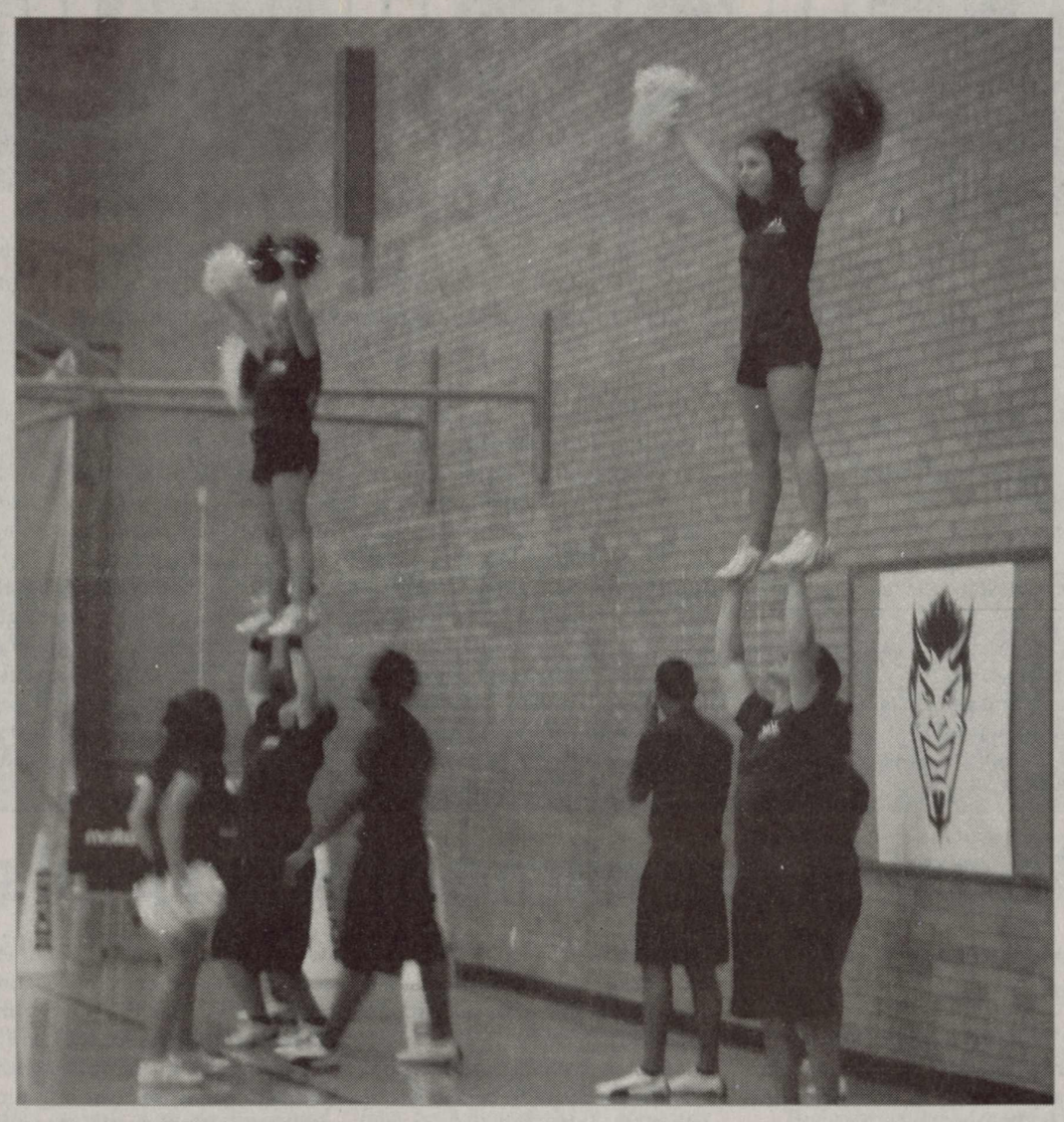
From left to right: Regan McLellan, Angela Kang and Elizabeth Bigger act in "Arabian Nights" last week.

Highlighting... Lady Demon volleyball, Northwestern State cheerleaders



Photos by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

Above: The Lady Demon volleyball team battles the McNeese State Cowgirls Thursday.
Below: NSU cheerleaders perform partner stunts during the volleyball game.





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10/08

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Editor in Chief
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October 1, 2008

Orchestra off to dynamic start

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Audience members settled into their chairs in Magale Recital Hall Thursday night as Douglas Bakenhus, the Northwestern Symphony Orchestra conductor, prepared backstage for the first concert of the semester.

Onstage, his hands floated over the detailed score on his music stand, keeping time for the students with a precise inner metronome.

Behind the energetic conductor is a man who takes the historic significance of his song selections into consideration, making every movement meaningful.

The concert included several classical pieces, including Gioacchino Rossini's "Overture: The Barber of Seville," Giovanni Bottesini's "Duo Concertant on themes from 'The Puritans,'" and Ludwig van Beethoven's 7th symphony.

The 7th symphony was a favorite of many students who performed.

"We pulled it off," Bakenhus said.

Paul Randall Adams, a music education major and viola player in the orchestra, said the soulful aspects of songs like Beethoven's 7th are what inspire him to perform.

"I like that music touches souls," Adams said. "If I can help touch somebody's soul, then I feel like I've fulfilled my purpose."

Adams, who wants to teach music to autistic children after he earns a degree in graduate school, said Bakenhus takes a unique approach to conducting.

"I think he's really knowledgeable about the music, and he gives us the history of the pieces that we're performing. To me, it's always better to know the history because it lets me know what emotion to put into the music," Adams said.

Bakenhus, who directed college bands for nine years before teaching orchestra students, explained that old music fascinates him because the emotions transcend time.

"It doesn't matter if you lived in the 1800s, the 1700s, the 21st century. It doesn't matter what color your skin is; it doesn't matter where you grew up. You can relate to what happens on the inside of someone," Bakenhus said.

This "human condition" is the same whether you're wearing a powdered wig or attending classes at a university. Bakenhus said that if forced to choose, though, his favorite composer would be Johann Sebastian Bach.

Studying Bach's scores, including "Magnificat in D," which the orchestra and choir will perform later in the semester, fascinates Bakenhus.

Though much has changed since the 18th century, listeners can still relate to the sensations conveyed by the songs.

"We can feel what Bach felt," Bakenhus said.

Bakenhus analyzes the structure of the music before he begins teaching. For this particular concert, Bakenhus also studied Beethoven's history and read many of his published letters.

"What I like about Beethoven – and I think it's represented in this piece – is that he's triumphant. He took a bad situation – he went deaf – and he turned it into triumph."

Like many of Beethoven's works, the beginning of the 7th symphony sounds joyful and exuberant. The second movement is profoundly sad, Bakenhus said.

To Bakenhus, the movement represents a somber period in Beethoven's life.

"When he went deaf, he became very depressed about it at first, and then he wrote a letter to a friend saying he was going to grab fate by the throat. And I think he does in this piece. He grabs it by the throat."

Bakenhus describes the final movement as a total change. "All of a sudden, it's like the sun comes out," and the song lifts the audience's spirits with a victorious chord.



Courtesy Photo

Associate professor of bassoon Douglas Bakenhus conducts an orchestra concert in Magale Recital Hall.

The man behind the stand

Bakenhus has come a long way from his beginnings as a fifth-grade clarinetist.

"I told the band director I wanted to play violin, and he said, 'Our school doesn't have strings. Why don't you play clarinet? It's kind of like a violin.' He just wanted someone to play clarinet," Bakenhus said.

Bakenhus later switched to bassoon because he thought it was a "weird-looking thing" and the idea of carrying around a larger case – to compete with his friend's euphonium case, of course – piqued his interest.

As a beginner, he was able to play the lowest note on the bassoon – something he has never heard another beginning student do.

Bakenhus got his undergraduate degree at University of Texas at Austin and later went to graduate school at Texas A&M Commerce.

"I wasn't even going to go to college," Bakenhus said.

When his high school band director, Karen Johnston, asked what his plans were after graduation, Bakenhus told her he wanted to be a truck driver.

She suggested that he audition for college orchestra as a bassoon player, but he said he preferred the idea of being behind the steering wheel of a big rig. He reminded her that he didn't make all-state.

"I'm not good enough," he told her.

She encouraged him to try anyway – after all, he had never taken a bassoon lesson before – and he took her advice to heart.

Today, Bakenhus conducts the NSU orchestra, teaches private bassoon lessons to college students and plays bassoon with a performance group, Trio de Llano.

His work may have taken him away from the road, but he has traveled across oceans for his performances with the trio.

In fact, he is leaving Natchitoches on Friday for a series of concerts in England.

Johnston showed up at UT-Austin in 2006 to listen to his doctoral recital.

"I told her, 'If it weren't for you, I'd be a truck driver,'" he said.

Coming up next

In addition to its performances in the Christmas Gala, the orchestra will perform a concert Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall.

Bakenhus said one of his favorite pieces, "The Camp Meeting" by Charles Ives, will be included in the patriotic concert.

Bakenhus originally wanted to hold the concert on Lincoln's birthday so that he could conduct Aaron Copeland's "Lincoln Portrait," but scheduling conflicts pushed the performance from February to November.

As it happened, the concert is now set for the day of the presidential election.

"It was just serendipitous, I guess," Bakenhus said.

No Current Sauce issue next week due to fall break.

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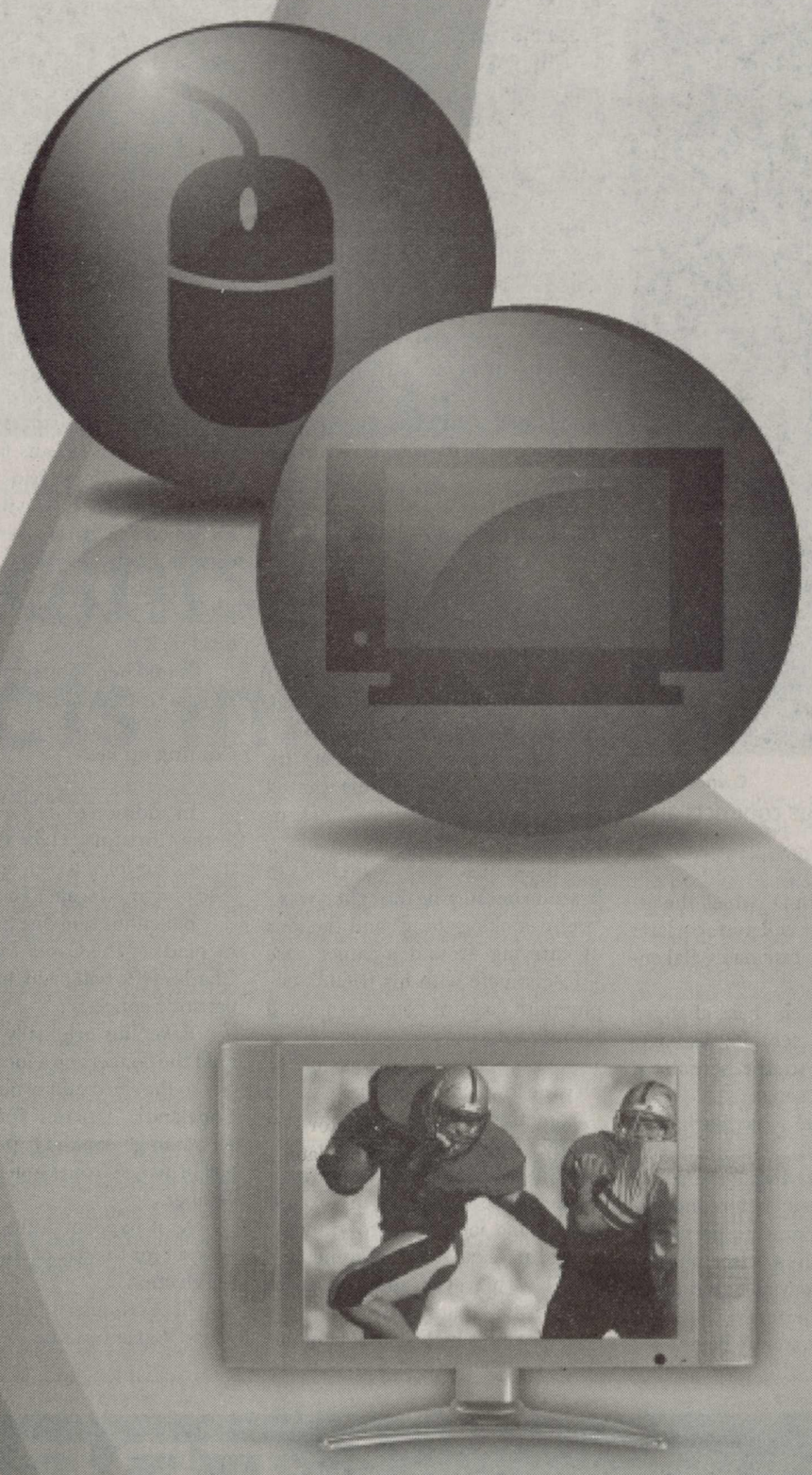


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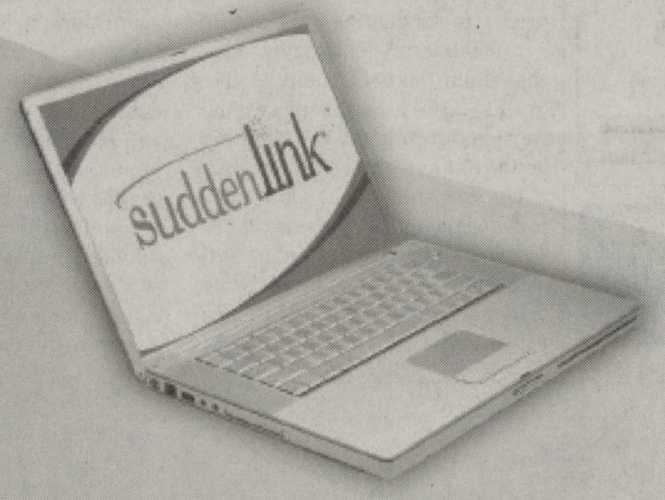
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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
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October 1, 2008

Half the Battle:

Inability and inexperience

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



On one side, executive inexperience, on the other, the inability to stay on point.

As we march steadily on to November, we are bombarded with ideas and subtle (or not-so-subtle) jabs.

I'm still undecided. I am very much a democrat, and I would love to support Barack Obama, but he lacks executive experience, and I'm reluctant to support that.

John McCain has done absolutely nothing to endear me to him. I think we all know by now that he was in the military. I think we all know he was a prisoner of war in Vietnam. Does he constantly need to remind us?

I mean, they can continue to avoid the issues. The economic collapse, the war in Iraq and oil prices aren't that important.

Well, McCain tries occasionally and ends up stumbling big time. His biggest mistake, though? Sarah Palin.

Calm down, feminists. I'm not done yet.

The choice of a female vice president is a good idea. A really good idea. It gives pro-Hillary women someone to vote for. Of course, voting for a woman because she's a woman is no better than voting for a black man because he's black (an idea Robert Brown discussed last week on this very page).

The choice of Sarah Palin for vice president was a bad choice. It was a reactionary move made with little thought other than "We need a chick!"

And, please, give Obama all the grief you want about having little foreign affairs experience. At least he had a passport. Until recently, Palin didn't.

There are plenty of choices, male or female, that would have been better than Palin. Plenty who have the experience and, more importantly, intelligence to be a good vice president.

Some people I've spoken to think that McCain is enough republican-in-name-only to be guaranteed a win.

It could work, but you're totally discounting the fact that most Americans are tired of republicans, period.

McCain cannot distance himself from the Republican Party enough to be guaranteed anything. Add to that the skepticism people have about Palin.

There are also people who think Obama is guaranteed to win because he's black, democratic and charismatic. He is all of the above, but he is inexperienced in the job he's aiming to get, and that won't be ignored. His job now is to convince us that he can do it.

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Love isn't always black and white:

Sometimes it's 'Grey'

Bethany Frank
Guest Columnist

Hope.



Every little girl dreams of a fairy tale. As we grow up, we glue our eyes to the lives formed by TV drama in hope the McDreamy in our lives would look at us the way Derek gazes at Meredith.

There was a fear creeping into our lives last season that perhaps the love duo would truly dissipate, but the house of candles warmed our girlish hearts as we yearned for the upcoming season.

"Grey's Anatomy" not only introduces potential lust affairs and intriguing trauma this season, but also adds a glimmer of hope.

Hope that Derek and Meredith finally get things together. Hope that George finally passes his intern exam.

Hope that Izzy and Alex finally work out their issues. Hope that Cristina can fill the void after Burke's jilting.

Hope that Lexi not only finds a man of her own, but also perhaps clears up more of the air with her half-sister, Meredith.

Hope.

Hope for all members of the cast that perhaps they can find that one fairytale ending we need them to have to potentially fulfill the one we, ourselves, desire.

Sadly, the viewers might need to wait a few more episodes, or seasons, for the fairytale, because it wouldn't be a TV drama without the proverbial twists and turns and pulls in the plot.

Is Derek's ex, Rose, truly pregnant? Did Alex really not change at all? Is Lexi doomed to only long for George's affection?

Will Derek take the heat again from the Chief's misdirected resentment toward Meredith? Is Cristina destined to live in Meredith's shadows?

The endless array of questions fills our hopeful hearts as we dance carefully around our own relationships each week in hopes that we can learn from the doctors' mistakes.

But, while the "Grey's Anatomy" doctors capture our hearts this season, reality sinks in as they absorb themselves in their "number 12" rating.

Will the hospital fail to meet their standards just as its doctors fail their loved ones?

Will the doctors consume themselves in ratings instead of medicine? How will this rating affect the remainder of the season?

The doctors proved they weren't second rate when they not only froze a man, but enabled him to walk again.

So perhaps if men can walk, then relationships can be saved and ratings increased.

But should our lives truly be engulfed by TV drama and ratings? Should we truly allow the lives of these too-gorgeous-for-their-own-good doctors make us feel less about our own personal appearances or relationship statuses? Should we allow an hour of our lives to be orchestrated around the TV Guide?

Could, perhaps, the reason we yearn for these girlish fairytales be because we allow ourselves to be mesmerized by the tales some writers conjure up while they wait for their lives to have meaning?

Last season the show seemed to fall downhill.

Granted, they have appeared to recover nicely, but all the TV drama fans out there were turned upside down by the endless reruns while they sat on the edge of their seats waiting for the moment the writers would return from their strike.

But for what?

Don't get me wrong, the edge of my couch has a permanent butt imprint as I impatiently wait for all my TV dramas, but viewers, myself included, need to sometimes be reminded that our lives shouldn't be dictated by TV characters.

But, with shows like "Grey's Anatomy," sometimes it is easier to be consumed by fairytales.

Better future calls for new leadership

Heath Boddie
Guest Columnist



I tutor three times a week at L.P. Vaughn Elementary/Middle School for an upper level education class, and this past Friday was a complete revelation to me.

I asked some middle school students what they wanted to do after they graduate high school, and aside from the general answers of "become a doctor," "join the military" and "be a firefighter," I had a kid who told me he just wanted to be alive by the time he graduated.

That said, we as a society have failed somewhere in the past eight years under Pres. Bush's leadership.

We are no longer expanding civil rights or lifting Americans up out of poverty and giving them hope for a better future.

We have slid backwards with many Americans, particularly those of minority ethnic backgrounds, in terms of hope and security for their families and themselves.

We have failed, and we can – and have to – do better than this.

Come Nov. 4, we have the chance to discontinue this backward slide we began almost from the moment Pres. Bush took office eight years ago with the election of Barack Obama as president of the United States.

This man worked for years as a community organizer within the low socioeconomic minority-majority districts in Chicago instead of taking a prestigious and high-paying job at a law firm.

This man has given more people hope and united this country more than any other politician has since Robert Kennedy did in the late '60s before he was assassinated.

I am proud to be voting for someone come November who has lived his Christian faith whole and with conviction to work with those less fortunate, and those who need our help the greatest.

An Obama presidency would restore what we need in our schools, with music and arts restored to our classrooms and importance placed on all subjects.

Barack Obama will work to restore our image and honor in the international scene with our close allies, and even those who are not particularly friendly to us such as the presidents of Iran, Venezuela and Russia.

Sen. Obama will work to end this war in Iraq that has cost the American taxpayers nearly a trillion dollars and in which nearly 5,000 Americans gave their lives and paid the ultimate sacrifice for a war we should not be fighting.

We do not need a man who can not remember the number of homes he owns, which turns out to be eight total.

We deserve a man who is honorable and does not endorse the Bush-thought pattern as McCain has done. We need better. We need Barack Obama.

Experience does count

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



I hope some of you watched the presidential debate this Friday night or at least caught a glimpse of it.

I thought one of the best moments was in the last couple minutes of the debate when Sen. John McCain was talking about experience.

Let me just say that the word experience has been given many definitions this election. But there is a difference in the two candidate's definition of experience.

So let's compare the experience of these two men.

Sen. Barack Obama believes he is ready to take on the duty of president of the United States.

According to his own Web site, he was state senator for eight years and then was elected, in 2004, to the U.S. Senate.

He was sworn in Jan. 4, 2005, and is currently Illinois' senator. On Feb. 10, 2007 – note that this date is barely two years into his U. S. Senate career – Obama announced his candidacy for president.

Compare this to John McCain. McCain, according to his Web site, ran for a congressional seat in Arizona in 1982 and won.

In 1986, he won his first term as U.S. Senator and is still serving as senator of Arizona.

That is 22 years as the senator of Arizona.

In the debate, McCain said, "There are some advantages to experience and knowledge and judgment, and I honestly don't believe that Sen. Obama has the knowledge or experience."

That is a quote from the transcript of the debate.

I could not agree more with McCain's statement.

I am not saying Barack Obama is a bad guy.

I am not voting against him because he is African American. I'm not voting against him because he's too young.

I am, however, voting against him, because he simply does not have the experience it takes to be the president of this country. Barack Obama's running mate Joe Biden said it well when he was still in the running for president.

"The presidency is not something that lends itself to on-the-job training," Biden said.

Even his vice presidential choice knows he does not have what it takes.

I guess Biden changed his mind just in time to be chosen by Obama as vice president, but that is another story.

The point is Obama is not ready and we can't have a president who gets in office and hopes to become ready.

We need someone who knows how to lead, who has been through things before, and who has the experience.

John McCain is that man.

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Slammin' show far from Shawshank

Richelle Stephens
Guest Columnist



Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the new breed of violent animation, courtesy of the mayhem-injected Cartoon Network animated series "Superjail!"

I initially believed that "Tim and Eric Awesome Show Great Job!" – another series on the network's Adult Swim late night schedule – was the greatest television show since the American incarnation of "The Office."

However, "Superjail!" is poised to tear through that honor like the steroid-charged character Alice, who tore through the tentacles of an octopus in Sunday night's television series premiere (there was an equally brilliant pilot created for Adult Swim's Web site last year).

"Superjail!" is about exactly what its name implies: a jail.

With a warden reminiscent of Willy Wonka overseeing an island penitentiary in the middle of a utopian Psychedelia, "Superjail!" certainly transforms naïve images into its own twisted exhibition of human folly.

Then, of course, there is conflict, and by conflict I mean severed limbs, melted faces and impaled bodies.

However, don't feel as if you've a screw loose when you laugh (or perhaps revel, if that's "your thing") at the carnage; the violence is at times subtly planted within the acid trip of abstract animation and distorted sounds that (seemingly) make up the bulk of this series.

You'd be hard pressed to find violent animation better than this; "Superjail!" makes "Metalocalypse" look like "Rugrats."

Much like fellow Adult Swimmer "Tim and Eric Awesome Show Great Job!," "Superjail!" relies on erratic (and, in this case, psychedelic) mood swings with intermittent flashes of avant-garde caliber imagery and writing.

Where "Tim and Eric" utilizes lampooning of the ridiculous and low in society through skits that mock their ways of life and means of entertainment, "Superjail!" employs embryonic yet explosive and vivid animation to mimic the chaos within the mind of the criminally insane.

Of course, you'd have to look closely to see all of this.

On the surface it appears to be a cheap thrill catered to bloodthirsty adolescents who are up past their bedtimes.

However, if you're not looking for the subtleties then you certainly won't find them.

As with "Tim and Eric," it's quite difficult to find the true intentions behind the ridiculous, yet they can be found if enough effort is exerted.

And that's the beauty behind that show and "Superjail!," and I'll be damned if I can find any other show on any other network today that can craft such brilliant examples of abstract symbolism.

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October 1, 2008

Demons calm Savage Storm

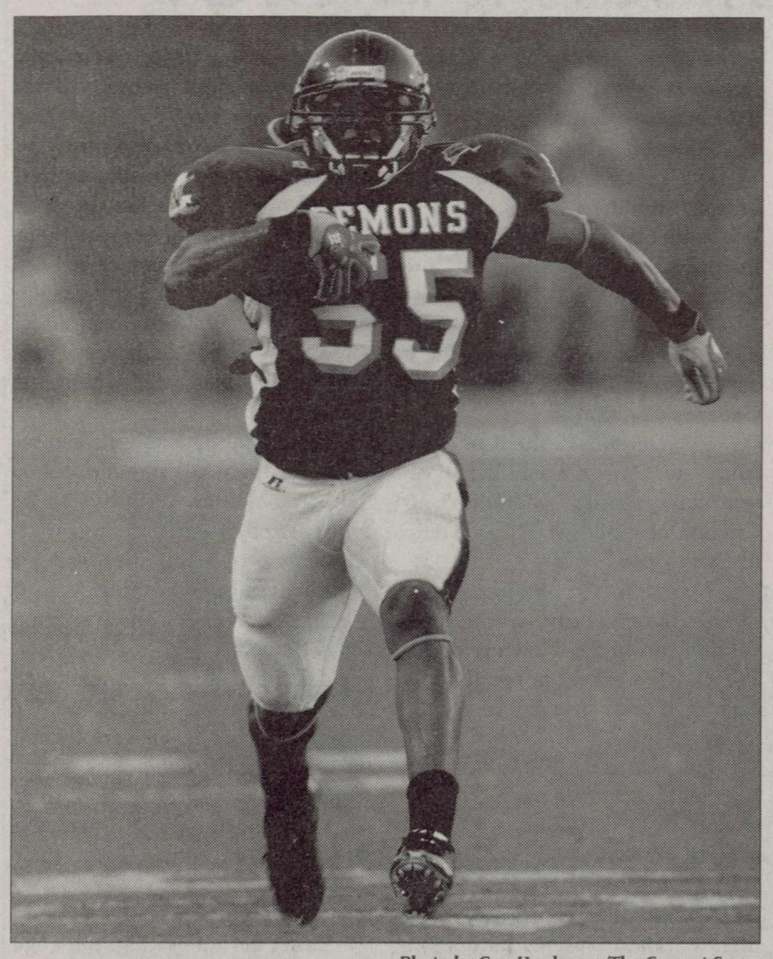


Photo by GaryHardamon/The Current Sauce
Junior linebacker Isaiah Greenhouse returns a 69-yard interception for a touchdown, to help lead the Demons to a 63-12 victory.

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

NSU earned its 27th consecutive win over a Division II opponent as the Demons blew by the Savage Storm of Oklahoma State, 63-12.

The game started with NSU senior safety Justin Perry returning the opening kickoff back for a 95-yard touchdown.

That would not be the only return for a touchdown on the night. Kevin Perry, Justin's younger brother, gobbled up a blocked punt and returned it for a touchdown. Isaiah Greenhouse returned an interception, 69 yards, for the score.

"Justin's kickoff return was a point of emphasis for us this week," head coach Scott Stoker told Sports Information. "We did a poor job in that phase last week, and we worked hard this week on staying on our blocks. We created space, and he ripped through it and took it the distance, gave us a great start. Then we scored off the blocked punt and on the interception return, the score got out of hand really too fast for us. We wanted more work in down-and-distance but weren't going to try to blow out any more lights on the scoreboard."

Not only was the special teams and defense working for the Demons, but the offense was clicking well, too.

The running game rushed for 339 of the team's 472 total offensive yards.

The bulk of those rushing yards went to senior running back Byron Lawrence, who had 147 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries.

This 100-yard game by Lawrence was his first of the season and moved him in to the top eight on the schools all-time rushing list and 100-yard games. He has accumulated 2,467 yards rushing and 11 100-yard games.

William Griffin and Stearling Endsley also added with 138 yards and three touchdowns on 28 carries between the two.

"We did what we should have done and got the game under control right out of the gate. We knew we were the better team, and if we played well we should win going away. That happened, but you don't take it for granted. You look at USC at Oregon State, at the Miami Dolphins beating the [New England] Patriots, at Ole Miss beating Florida today, you've got to go out and work and win football games. It's not easy no matter who's across the field," Stoker told Sports Information.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Senior saftey Justin Perry returns the opeaning kickoff 95 yards for a score.

The offense attempted only 17 passes with John Hundley completing 9 of 14 passes for 98 yards and a touchdown pass to Darius Duffy.

The 63 points scored by the Demons marks the second highest total points scored in one game for the Demons only behind the 87-27 shellacking handed to Southeastern Louisiana in 2003.

On the record watch, Robert Weeks scored nine more points to bring his career numbers to 178, only 29 points behind the record for most points scored in team history.

The Demons have this weekend off as they prepare for the Nicholls State Colonels in a battle of the NSUs Oct. 11.

"Playtime is over. We have two weeks until conference play starts. Every mistake from here on out is going to be magnified," coach Stoker said.

Wins build confidence

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Lady Demon volleyball team finds itself winning three of its last five matches after starting the season on a three-match losing streak.

NSU traveled to Conway, Ark. to battle the Sugar Bears of Central Arkansas in the opening game of the UCA Tournament Thursday.

This game also started conference play for both teams.

The ladies in purple and white fell to the Sugar Bears three games to none.

Yelena Enwere led the team in kills with 10. Megan Dockery had a team-high 26 assists.

The next day, the Lady Demons took on the Arkansas Pine Bluff Golden Lions.

NSU turned the tables, sweeping the match three to nothing. Yelena Enwere led the team in kills for an eighth game in a row with 13. Megan Dockery had a team-high 30 assists.

"We really unleashed on them today," head coach Brittany Uffelman told Sports Information. "It was a really fun match. We got to play our entire bench, so that was really fun to see."

NSU continued tournament play in Conway taking on University of Louisiana-Monroe.

The Lady Demons improved to 2-1 in tournament play, shooting down the Lady Warhawks three games to one.

Yelena Enwere and Megan Dockery paved the way for the Lady Demons, recording 20 kills and 42 assists, respectively. Dockery also had 11 digs in the contest.

Three days later, NSU traveled to Ruston to take on Louisiana Tech. The Lady Demons defeated LA Tech in four sets, improving their overall record to 4-4.

"This is a good confidence builder as we head into conference play," Uffelman told Sports Information.

NSU returned home to open up conference against McNeese State coming off a four-game road trip. The game was scheduled to be in Prather Coliseum, but due to a malfunctioning air conditioner, the game was moved to the Health and Human Performance building.

The Lady Demons jumped to a quick 2-0 lead but lost their luster losing the next two games, forcing a fifth game.

NSU pulled away in the final game, winning 15-9, improving its record to 4-5 (1-1).

"We know McNeese is a third-game team," Uffelman told Sports Information. "So we knew we were going to be in a battle even after being up 2-0."

The Lady Demons hosted Stephen F. Austin Monday, losing to the defending champs three games to none.

This loss drops NSU to 1-2 in conference. The Lady Demons lost 25-21 in game one, and managed to muster only 23 points collectively in games two and three.

The Ladyjacks outscored NSU 75-44 in the three games.

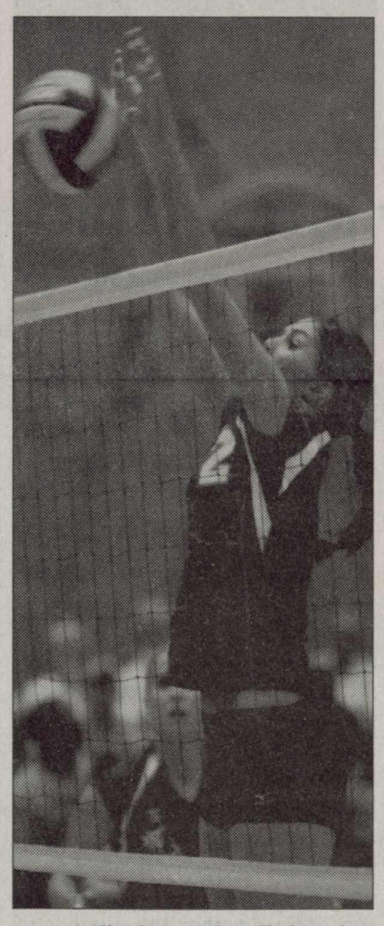


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Markie Robichau blocks SFA's scoring attempt.

Soccer team scores at will

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

Head coach Jimmy Mitchell notched his 100th win at NSU as the Lady Demons rolled over the Lady Jaguars of Southern University, 10-0.

"Scoring that much is more important from a confidence standpoint," Mitchell said. "We had a lot of players score, and that's also important."

The Lady Demons got off to an early lead thanks to freshman Kayla King, who scored midway into the 10th minute.

Five minutes later, Kayce Shultz scored from 20 yards out.

Meghan Hunter scored her first of two goals of the night in the 29th minute, giving the Lady Demons a three to nothing advantage.

Only 58 seconds after Hunter's goal, Rose Lawrence scored from 25 yards out in the 30th minute, with Gabrielle Assayag scoring the assist.

NSU continued to dominate in the first half. Early in the 32nd minute, Meghan Hunter scored her second goal of the night, giving the Lady Demons a five-goal halftime lead. The lead remained at 5-0 until the 50th minute when Shultz scored her second of the night.

Chelsey Gibbs scored her lone goal only 17 seconds later, extending the lead 7-0.

Late in the 62nd minute, Hannah Casey, seeing her first minutes on the field due to injury, scored her first goal of the season from 25 yards out. King was given the assist.

Maddy Hall finished off the scoring barrage with two goals, one in the 82nd minute and the last coming in the 87th minute.

Mitchell, his new 100-74-17 record and the Lady Demons soccer team have nine days off before they travel to Conway, Ark. to face the Sugar Bears of Central Arkansas.

NSU's record is now at 5-4-1 on the season, with four of the five wins coming in the friendly confines of the Demon Soccer Complex.

Fourth and Fletch: Fork 'em

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Why do some people do what they do? Is it because they don't realize it's a big deal to people or because they know it's a big deal to people?

I'm talking about the choice of clothing some people have at our athletic events, football primarily.

I have been on the field for all four of our home football games because I work for Sports Information and I help keep stats.

I will look at the people in the stands and see NSU shirts and hats almost everywhere.

I say almost everywhere because I sometimes see LSU shirts and hats in the crowd.

I am a huge LSU fan. I was raised as an LSU fan, but I'm a Demon now.

If you are cheering for NSU and wearing an LSU shirt – or any other school, for that matter – get an NSU shirt or hat.

When you enter Turpin Stadium, Prather Coliseum or any other Demon athletic venue, you have entered "Demon land."

I must admit, I am guilty of doing this, but it was a long, long time ago.

Whenever I took over as the baseball public address announcer about three years ago, I wore an LSU hat to one of our games thinking nothing of it.

More than a handful of people said something to me about it. Since that day, I have not worn LSU apparel to an NSU ballgame.

Director of Athletics Greg Burke was one of the people who said something to me about my fashion flaw.

If there is someone in the athletic department to whom I'll listen, it's this man.

I might not root for the same teams he does, since he's a fan of the Cavaliers, Browns and Buckeyes, but I have nothing but respect for his authority.

I know there are many people who say we could never compete with LSU, but they are wrong.

Football is the only exception because LSU plays in the Football Bowl Subdivision, and we play in the Football Championship Subdivision.

In any other sport, we can compete with, if not beat, LSU.

Fans supporting LSU while attending NSU events also show disrespect to the organizations that work extremely hard to be good at what they do.

The Spirit of Northwestern marching band, the NSU cheerleaders, the Demon Dazzlers and the pom line put in hours upon hours every week to represent NSU.

If there is an organization that I failed to mention, I apologize.

Would you ever see an NSU shirt or hat at an LSU football game? I highly doubt it.

I understand when people wear other school's apparel to class, or even around campus.

This really doesn't bother me. I see people wearing LSU, USC, Florida and even Michigan clothes.

I have a friend who is a die-hard Michigan fan.

He wears Michigan clothes all the time, but when Demon athletics are concerened, he's Northwestern State all the way.

If I see you at a game, I won't say anything to you because I have no authority to tell anyone what clothes they can and cannot wear.

I know many people would appreciate the extra effort to support Northwestern State athletics.

Since I am inside the athletic department, I see the time and effort made by the staff.

They don't work that hard so people can come to our games and support other teams. I know they don't appreciate this, either. How do the athletes feel when they work so hard everyday and aren't fully supported by their "fans"?

There are so many things that are not taken into consideration

So please, whenever you come to support NSU, don't support us halfway. Either go big, or go home.

Please share your opinion with us at www.thecurrentsauce.com.



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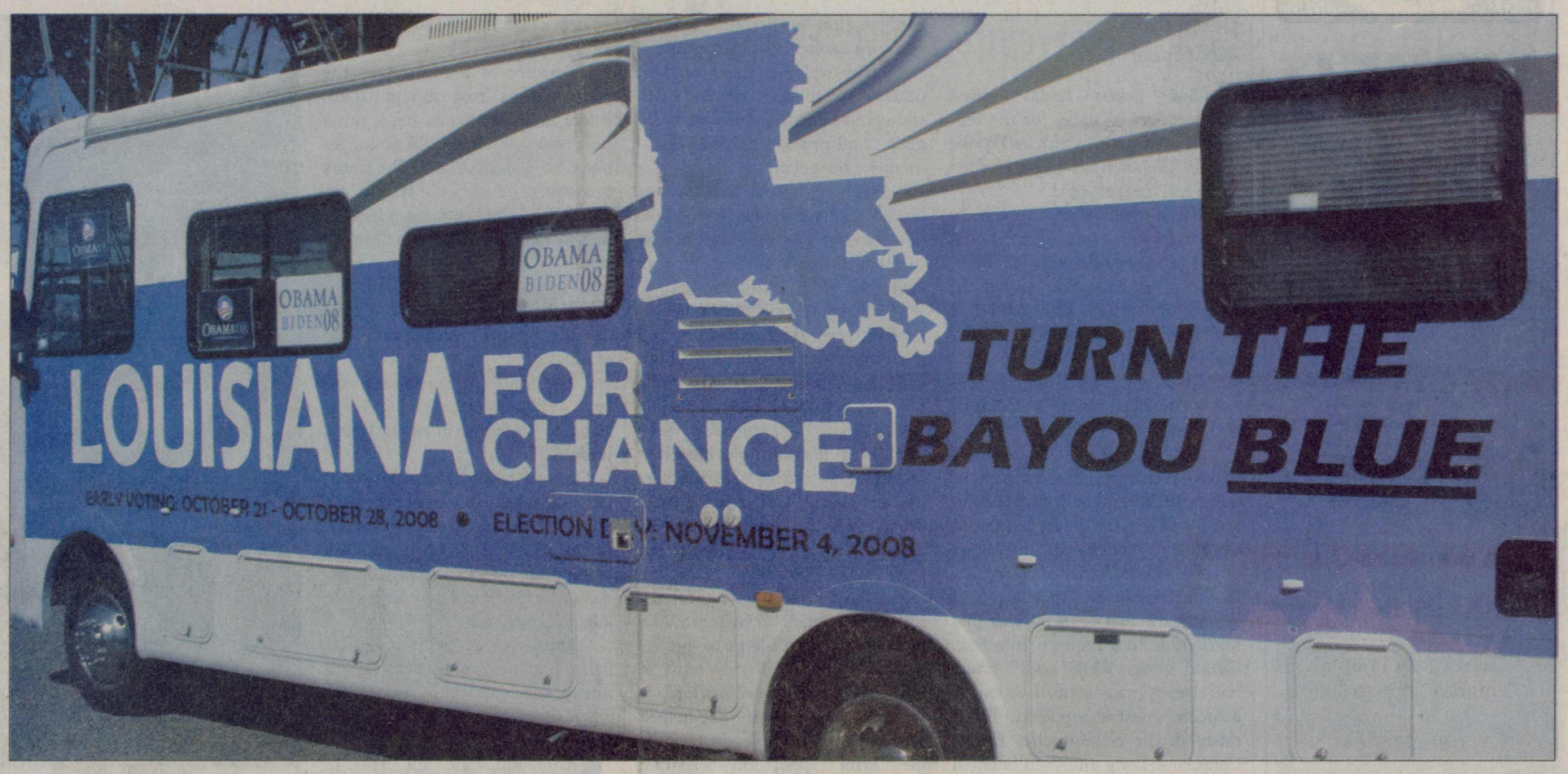


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

The "Obama Bus" arrives at the Prather Coliseum parking lot shortly after the rally begins. The "Louisiana For Change" motto is printed on the side of the blue and white bus and is a dominant theme amongst the rally's speakers.

Obama bus makes NSU pit stop



Photo by Bethany Frank/ The Current Sauce

A considerable amount of students, faculty and staff and other community members attend the Obama rally. The motivated and enthusiastic supporters carry signs and posters to show their interest in Obama.

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor

"Yes we can! Yes we can! Yes we can!

The chanting filled the air Friday afternoon as a rally for democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama drew a large crowd to the parking lot of Prather Coliseum.

Those attending anxiously awaited the arrival of the large blue and white "Obama Bus," which many students optimistically believed might be transporting Obama's running mate Joe Biden – or even Obama himself.

Although neither Obama or Biden were present, speakers included SGA President Cody Bourque and city councilwoman Sylvia Morrow, who rallied the pro-Obama students and staff of NSU.

Among the attendees were representatives of College Democrats, Women for Obama and several independent students. Some members of the NSU faculty and staff also attended.

Junior graphic design major Jayron Lenoir said he feels the large attendance at the rally is proof that students are taking an active role in the election.

"Students aren't just talking, they're actually acting," Lenoir said.

However, not all attendees were there to support Obama. A different chant could be heard from behind the pro-Obama crowd.

"Nobama! Nobama! Nobama!"

An anti-Obama protest group appeared with signs displaying "Nope" and "Socialism is not the change we are looking for" about 30 minutes after the rally began. The protesters – who asked not to be named in this article – clearly displayed their message at the rally: Obama is not the man they want as president.

The students in the protest group said they felt that people were "swept up in a rock star mentality" and "didn't know the issues" that are plaguing the country today.

"I think people are so swept up in the mantra of change they don't know exactly what they're voting for," one protester said.

Another agreed, saying, "People don't know what they're getting themselves into."

One of the protesters said he was "a devout Christian" who couldn't agree with some of the moral stances Obama has taken, which includes his pro-choice stance. Whether or not Obama supporters were only "concerned about race," as one protester mentioned, the turnout for Obama was larger than expected.

One student said he thought there were just going to be "some student groups and that's about it."

The rally featured music and several guest speakers, as well as free Obama-Biden yard signs.

Cloyd Benjamin, who helped organize the event, said that the main focus of the rally was to encourage early voting and also to get younger voters out to the voting booths.

With the election just weeks away, Obama campaign rallies these last few weeks have been picking up with the hopes of building the momentum needed to score a victory in the presidential race.

University rakes in $4.4M

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

President Randall J. Webb accepted a $4.4 million check on behalf of NSU Thursday, sporting what he called "one of the broadest smiles you've ever seen" on him.

"This has to rank among [NSU's] finest hours," Webb said.

The millions are derived from a natural gas lease on 366.98 acres of university property in DeSoto Parish.

Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Scott Angelle visited the campus to present the check to the university with the help of Marjorie McKeithen, secretary of the state mineral board.

Farmer John Henry Crow willed the property to NSU after his death in 1972 because of his friendship with a retired NSU professor, Webb said.

Webb said the university is going to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to break up the $4.4 million into endowments for both students and faculty as well as money for capital projects around campus.

He said he hopes to use $2.4 million for endowed scholarships and $1 million for grants for faculty research, both of which should be available for the fall 2009 semester, Webb said.

University administrators are currently ranking potential capital projects in order of importance, he said.

The main prospective on-campus project is the installation of a better key system throughout the campus, which Webb thinks would cost about $300,000. The president's cabinet must approve the project before work can begin.

"We work all the time trying to secure our assets," Webb said. "It's an outstanding priority. It's too important not to."

Louisiana Sen. Gerald Long began the check presentation with a few words about what this money could mean to NSU.

"This is a historic moment for NSU and a great opportunity for NSU," Long said.

Long handed the spotlight over to Angelle and McKeithen, who presented the check to NSU on behalf of the state.

"Today is a good day," Angelle said in his thick Cajun accent. "Who would've thought that 366 acres would have brought this amount of money to this university?"

The DeSoto property is part of the Haynesville Shale formation – a rock formation composed of clay-sized particles deposited and buried in north Louisiana more than 170 million years ago, according to oilshalegas.com.

"Haynesville Shale remains a stable opportunity for us," Angelle said during the presentation.

This may not be the only pay day for NSU. If SWEPI, a division of Shell that owns the lease on the property, is not in production within the first 12 months, the company must make a rental payment to the university, Angelle said. This payment is half of the original $4.4 million, and the university would receive another $2.2 million if there is no production within the second year of the lease.

NSU is also entitled to 25 percent of royalties on any natural gas produced on the property.

McKeithen said she was glad to present this check to NSU, and she emphasized how "smart" the university was to get this lease.

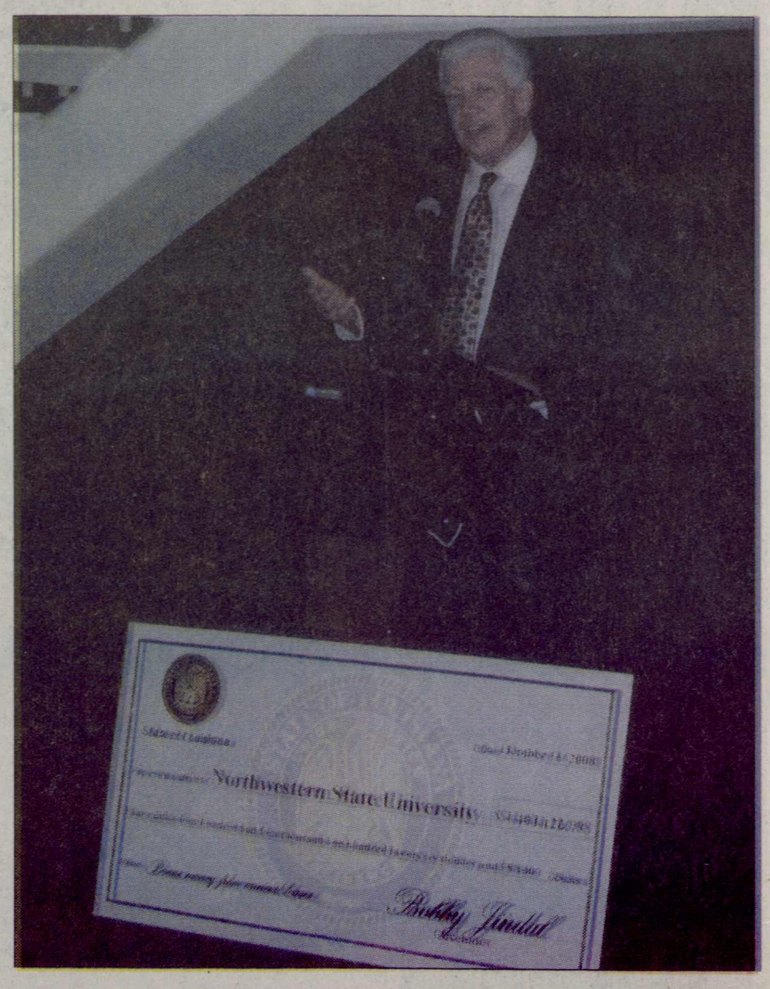


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

President Randall J. Webb accepts a check for $4.4 million for a mineral lease on university property.

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News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu

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Jindal receives warm welcome

David Royal
News Editor

Gov. Bobby Jindal visited Natchitoches Monday for the second time within a month and spoke at the NSU campus as part of his town hall meeting tour.

On his one-year anniversary of being sworn into office, Jindal spoke in Magale Recital Hall on issues concerning education, healthcare, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, and even capital punishment for child rapists.

"It's not every day that the governor comes to town," NSU President Randall J. Webb said.

Although he would have liked to have seen more students in attendance, Webb said he was nevertheless pleased to see the large amount of students, faculty and members of the Natchitoches community that did hear Jindal's speech.

Jindal's visit to NSU was primarily due to a request from Sen. Gerald Long, Webb said. Jindal had already made plans to attend as a special guest at a political fundraiser in the Natchitoches Events Center for Long and then decided to stop by NSU as well.

Although they knew Jindal would be speaking in Natchitoches for part of his tour, Webb said he and his officials did not receive confirmation of Jindal's plans to come on campus until last week.

Webb explained that he and his officials had to meet with local and state police agencies to confirm logistics and provide a safe environment for the governor.

Originally, Webb said he had hoped to have Jindal speak outdoors in the Alumni Plaza, but issues concerning Jindal's safety prevented him from doing so.

During his speech, Jindal focused a great deal of his time on the importance of education – both early and continued.

Jindal addressed the change he is bringing to the public schools by describing the multiple bills that are being passed to give teachers more authority and create greater discipline in the classroom and the $3 billion that is being given to the public school system.

He expressed the need for the state government to help graduating high school students to "hit the ground running" if they wish to move on to a college education.

One way the state has helped do this is by completely funding the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) for the second year in a row, Jindal said.

Jindal said it is time for everyone in Louisiana to stop using the state's financial status as a scapegoat because it is no longer an issue.

Because of the revenues the state receives from oil companies, Jindal explained Louisiana is not a poor state, and it should no longer be used as an excuse for the state's inadequate educational system.

"We've had poor leadership, but we're not a poor state," Jindal said.

Additionally, Jindal emphasized the importance of creating in-state opportunities for college graduates.

Too many of Louisiana's college graduates are leaving Louisiana to find jobs in other states, Jindal said.

In order to increase the number of Louisiana citizens who stay after graduating from college, Jindal explained that tax cuts are being made on out-of-state companies, which will in turn bring more jobs to Louisiana.

Jindal also said $530 million is being put into roads, bridges and infrastructures, which will create an environment that people will be proud of.

After finishing his speech, Jindal answered the audience's questions and provided the opportunity to meet and take pictures with the large crowd before heading to the political fundraiser.



Photo by Amanda Crane/ The Current Sauce
Before giving his speech, Gov. Bobby Jindal greets people in the Alumni Plaza while the members of the NSU band played. Jindal's visit was one of many town hall meetings.

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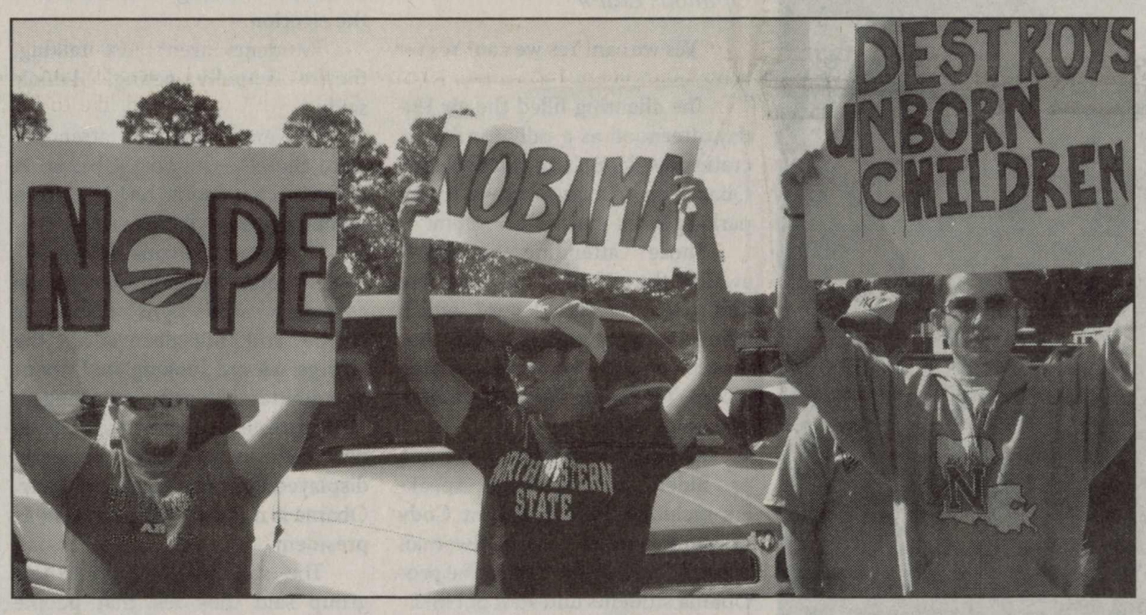


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce
Student protesters express their negative feelings for Obama and the Democratic party at last Friday's Obama rally outside Prather Coliseum.

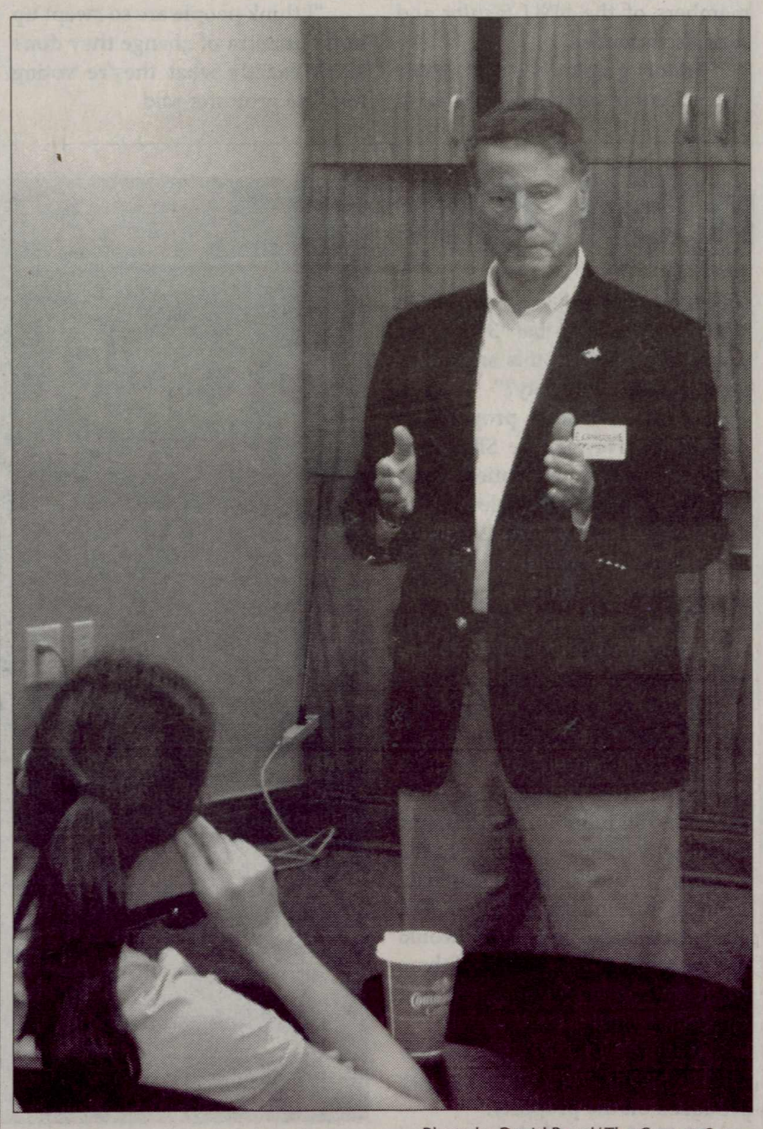


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce
Congressional candidate Paul Carmouche addresses the NSU chapter of College Democrats in late September.

David Royal
News Editor

While in college, students tend to experience many firsts, such as their first time living independently. Next month, however, many students will experience another first: voting in a presidential election.

It appears that this 2008 presidential election will be the election in which the young American voters finally reveal their true potential and influence concerning the polls.

This year, 87 percent of Americans under the age of 30 said they will be voting in November – a six percent increase from 2004's election, according to the USA TODAY/Gallup polls.

Additionally, the poll revealed that one quarter of the young voters surveyed had worked on a campaign, joined a political club or attended a political rally.

Unlike in the past elections, young voters believe the result of the election will truly affect their lives.

"This is the most important election of my lifetime," junior nursing major Natalie Webb said.

Webb explained that because it is primarily her generation that is fighting in the Iraq war, and because current economic issues could potentially last for many years to come, young men and women take an active role in this election.

"There is no one naive enough not to know we [young citizens] need to rock the vote," said Webb, who will be placing her first vote for a presidential election this November.

Walt Rutland, a freshman general studies major, said he believes there are not enough NSU students staying updated on the political race.

"There are a lot of people who don't really care, and that is tragic," Rutland said.

Many of the NSU students interviewed, however, said they feel the problem is not that students are not excited about the election, but instead are uninformed.

Sophomore nursing student Laura Bruce said she strongly believes an example of this can be found amongst supporters of presidential candidate Barack Obama.

"A lot of people don't know why they're even voting for Obama," Bruce said.

This election will be the second presidential election in which senior business administrative major Posi Oshinowo has participated.

In comparison to the 2004 election, Oshinowo said young people for both political sides have taken an "extremely active role."

Although students are motivated, Oshinowo added that he fears students will make blind, uneducated decisions.

In order to help motivate and inform students, an Obama rally was held Friday in the Prather Coliseum parking lot.

Numerous people – mostly students – attended the rally and showed their support for Obama.

Standing about 20 feet behind the crowd of Obama supporters, however, stood a gaggle of students in support of republican presidential candidate John McCain.

Equipped with posters, the McCain supporters caught the eye of many and did their best to express their opposition to Obama's political views.

When asked how he felt about the McCain fans, Oshinowo said he did not mind because they had just as much right to be there as the Obama supporters.

Because it had a representation of both republicans and democrats, the rally was a valid example of the role young voters will take this November, Oshinowo said.

Students and organizations throughout the campus have taken other measures to ensure that a high number of young voters will participate.

Many students are registered to vote in their hometowns, rather than in Natchitoches, so Krista Dixon decided to help students realize that voting with an absentee ballot was an option.

"I just wanted to help others be able to vote without having to travel all the way home," Dixon said.

Dixon, a freshman pre-med student at the Louisiana Scholars' College, worked with the Student Government Association to provide students with absentee ballot registration forms.

She brought about 40 copies of the registration forms to the SGA's office and to SGA's Meet Your Senator Day.

Almost all of them were picked up.

As a result of the magnitude of the presidential election, NSU's chapter of College Democrats has been attempting to bring a greater amount of students' focus to current local elections.

Sophomore journalism major Jimmie Walker said the presidential race is so tight that it has practically "overshadowed" the local elections.

Tegan Rymer, president of the College Democrats, said her goal is to help alleviate this issue.

Last month, the College Democrats invited Paul Carmouche, who is running for the congressional seat in Louisiana's fourth district, to come speak with the organization and other students.

Although attendance for his speech was low, Carmouche encouraged the audience to take an active role in the congressional election not only by voting, but also by assisting his campaign team with tasks, such as campaign rallies and polls.

"I'm not really concerned about the size of the audience," Carmouche said. "I just want to involve young people."

Although young voters are predicted to show up in record numbers come election day, experts predicted the same in the 2004 election and young voters did not meet expectations.

Nov. 4 could either serve as a turning point for the young generations in terms of their political role or as a repeat of their traditional indifference toward the political world.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
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October 22, 2008

I want to rock and roll all week

Homecoming week kicks off with Rock Band, lip sync, movie night



Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce

Junior social work major Monique Chachere plays guitar for Rock Band at the "Live Like an NSU Rock Star" homecoming kickoff party in the Friedman Student Union Monday night.

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

NSU students are leaving their books behind and living like rock stars for a week.

As the opening party started in the Friedman Student Union, it was clear that this homecoming would be all about fun and rocking out.

The "Live Like an NSU Rock Star" kickoff party gave students a chance to star in their own rock and roll band, participate in an inflatable rock and roll jousting and fly jump and meet their homecoming court. Homecoming king Roderick Wilson and Homecoming queen Rachel McCalister led the court and attendees in the NSU fight song.

"I can't wait for all of the events this week because they are going to be a lot of fun, but I am looking forward to the parade the most," McCalister said.

The student body voted for McCalister, a junior secondary business education major from Natchitoches, and Wilson, a senior hospitality management and tourism major from Bossier City, to reign over fellow students as this year's top rock stars.

"I feel very honored that the student body voted me as the homecoming queen," McCalister said. "At first, I was in complete shock, and honestly, I am still a little in shock."

Court members include: Wil Adams of Baton Rouge, La.; Nicholas Courville of Basile, La.; Jeremy Evans of Longview, Texas; Andi Finimore of Bossier, La.; Akilah Givens of Monroe, La.; Marissa Guidry of Lake Charles, La.; Eddie Higginbotham of Jennings, La.; Lauren Hughes of Savannah, Ga.; Hasim Jones of Shreveport, La.; Phillip Jean-Louis Jr. of Lafayette, La.; Lauren Lupo of Shreveport, La.; Maryann Mbaka of Houston, Texas; Devin Owens of Homer, La.; Kayla Pitcher of Natchitoches; Monica Randazzo of Chalmette, La.; Diante Turner of Natchitoches; Kendall Vinning of New Orleans and Robin Williams of Sulphur, La.

Tuesday showcased a new homecoming event.

"Welcome to Spirit Lane" is an event where students can get their vehicles decorated with school colors. The goal of the event is to paint the campus purple and to promote school spirit, SAB special events coordinator Lindsay Maggio said.

A crowd of Demon fans watched a movie at Turpin Stadium. With the first two days over and a week of activities still planned, Maggio hopes the turnout of students will continue to grow.

"I hope students come out and participate in all the free activities that the Student Activities Board sponsors," Maggio said. "I get a sense of pride and accomplishment when a diverse group of students comes out to any of the events we plan during the year, but I hope everyone will come out, have a great time and get ready for the big game on Saturday."

Students still have time to rock out on campus this week. Wednesday is service day.

Students and participating organizations will spend their day cleaning up campus.

A recycling station will be set up in the Student Union Ballroom from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and a fun run, sponsored by the WRAC, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Spirit lane will also be open at 5:30 p.m. for those who would still like to have their vehicle decorated.

The biggest traditions during homecoming week are the last events of the week. On Thursday, the lip sync contest will take place in the student union ballroom at 7 p.m. Campus organizations perform skits to homecoming theme-related music and show their Demon spirit.

Friday is the homecoming parade where organizations design floats and ride through town to the stage by Cane River. Once there, a pep rally will end homecoming week festivities.

Developing friendships, working with other students in various organizations and celebrating each other's accomplishments makes homecoming week worthwhile, Higginbotham said.

"When we are all excited, united and supportive for a cause then there is no limit to the amount of good things that can happen here at NSU," Higginbotham said.



Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce

Homecoming king Roderick Wilson jokingly shouts to lock the doors to keep students from leaving the kickoff party during the fight song Monday.

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Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
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October 22, 2008

Fraternity celebrates gentlemen

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

The Theta Lambda Nupes, NSU's chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, planned on showing the ladies true gentlemen during Kappa Week – though they try to do that on a daily basis anyway.

Kappa week, also known as "The Week of the Gentlemen," focused on catering to the women and giving back to the community.

The Nupes kicked off their week Sunday with a church service at the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church.

On Monday the Nupes tutored children for an hour at the Boys and Girls Club and cleaned up the city streets with the Adopt-A-Road program later that evening.

Tuesday, the first Pretty-Cold Klassic was held at the Martin Luther King Jr. recreational center. At the Klassic, the Nupes battled it out with the Alphas on the basketball court.

"It's been eight or nine years since a Greek versus Greek competition has happened," Kappa member Robert Moran said.

The Nupes invited their fellow students to the practice field Wednesday for the Kappa Kookout, which provided everyone with food, fun and fellowship. Everyone had his or her reasons for attending the cookout.

"I like barbecue and anything on the grill," freshman psychology major Tierra Kirts said.

Thursday, the Kappas threw a party – "Kourtesy Hall: The Hunt for Miss Independent" – at the Ben Johnson Auditorium. The Nupes ended their week Friday night with martini night at Ron's House of Sports. The first 50 ladies received two free martinis on the Kappas.

"We do it for you," NSU's Kappa chapter adviser William Cartwright said.

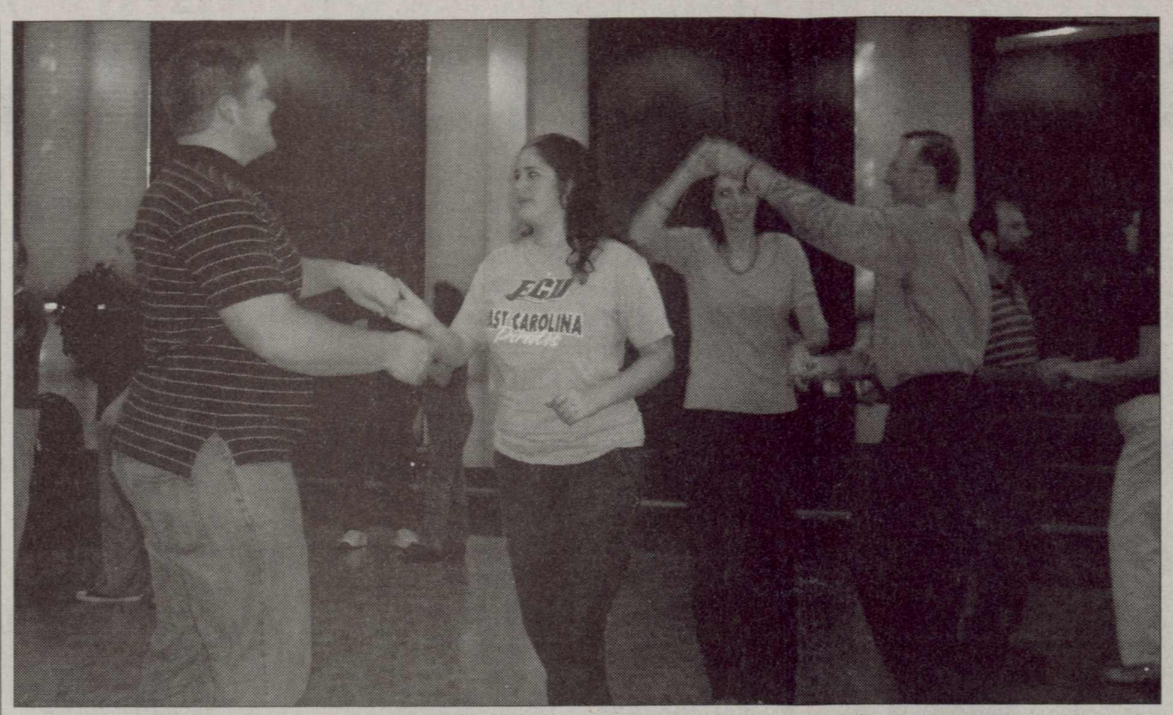


Photo by Tiffany Thomas /The Current Sauce

Students and faculty tear up the floor at a ballroom dance workshop Saturday.

Dancing with the scholars

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

The Scholars' College held a workshop Saturday, Oct. 11. in the Student Union Ballroom – a fitting venue, considering that the workshop was on ballroom dancing.

NSU students, faculty and staff gathered under the instruction of Mike Cundall, a philosophy professor at Scholars', and wife Amy Werner, assistant director of alumni and development.

With a turnout of about 11 couples, Cundall and Werner impressed the fundamentals of swing dance and the foxtrot.

After the initial surprise of these new concepts, the couples seemed to quickly grasp the steps, which prompted Cundall to play faster music and quicken the couples' steps.

In addition to footwork, Cundall stressed the importance of leads and follows. Typically in dance males are the leads and females are the follows.

This setup is not only for aesthetics, but also for clear communication. The attention is supposed to be on the follow, but the lead must be able to communicate with her.

"I'm the picture. She's the frame," said Cundall as he demonstrated how unusual arm and foot movement detracts attention from the follow.

Once the couples understood this, Cundall and Werner explained the fluidity of dance. After noticing a few couples having difficulty determining their partners' next moves, Cundall made this point:

"I don't need to lift my arm high in the air to let her know to turn. If I gently lift and move my body she'll know."

Werner then reiterated this from the follow's point of view.

"He's not jerking me or applying a lot of force," Werner said. "The hardest thing for people to understand is that the communication occurs from the waist down."

Some of the students who attended were Scholars' College students who didn't have much interest and weren't very excited about the 10 a.m. time slot. However, after about an hour of dancing their viewpoint changed to a better one.

"I mainly came because Dr. Cundall asked me to," sophomore liberal arts major Mathew Morrison said. "I wasn't too happy about it being so early, but now I'm glad I came."

Some of the faculty and staff, however, embraced the idea of the workshop from the beginning.

"I always liked dancing, ballroom and salsa," economics instructor Dorothy Jones said. "It's so smooth and lovely. Also, having a workshop like this on campus makes it easier. I don't have to go off to Shreveport to find something nice like this."

Cundall and Werner also wanted to express the physical benefits of dancing.

"If nothing else, it's great exercise and it's fun," said Werner.

The workshop was not only a means to introduce people to dancing. It was also a way to support the Scholars' College.

A $30 donation was encouraged to fund various activities of the college, but dancing remained the focal point.

There might just be another dancing workshop in the mix.

Graveyard hunters haunt Natchitoches

Amanda Duncil
Sauce Reporter

Why does a cemetery have to keep a fence around it?

Because people are dying to get in. It may be a corny joke, but fences couldn't keep members of the Natchitoches Historic Foundation and even Spirit Hunters out of the local cemetery Saturday night.

The Natchitoches Historic Foundation presented the first Haunted History Tour in American Cemetery. Many people came for a night of spooky fun with a twist – it was educational.

People from the area volunteered for roles portraying famous historical figures in Natchitoches history. Numerous significant events were reenacted, such as the assassination of Mayor Pulman and the duel between Gen. Galennie and Congressman Pierre Bossier.

No Halloween event could be complete without NSU's resident haunt. Isabella, played by inservice coordinator for the Writing Project Mary Koleas, gave a dramatic presentation of the events that lead to Isabella's death.

Payne Williams, chairman and board member with the Natchitoches Historic Foundation, helped organize and wrote scripts for the event.

"It teaches some history of the town," Williams said.

The event wasn't intended to be scary, but rather spooky and fun. The Natchitoches Historic Foundation is a nonprofit organization that strives to preserve Natchitoches history. The money raised during the tour will be used to restore buildings and sponsor educational programs.

NSU students from a variety of disciplines attended the event to help set up and guide groups through the cemetery.

Heritage Resources graduate Catherine Lobre received service learning hours for participating and was able to interact with the Spirit Hunters, a group of paranormal investigators.

"I love it," Lobre said. "It's so much fun, and I'm learning about history."

The Spirit Hunters is a "serious group of individuals dedicated to the study of paranormal activity," according to the Spirit Hunters Web site. An informational table was stationed near the end of the tour. A briefcase of ghost hunting tools sat opposite a laptop that displayed segments of data collected from various locations to groups of onlookers.

Prior to the event, the group explored the Judge Porter house after receiving a phone call about several strange phenomena occurring in the house, said Shelly Mills, a southern case manager for the group.

The group captured an electric voice phenomenon, or EVP, during their investigation. Investigators record themselves talking or asking questions with a digital voice recorder. It is only until the audio is played back that they can sometimes hear voices answering.

The group often receives calls from homeowners suspecting paranormal activity. The group then schedules investigations free of charge, Mills said.

While there have been cases of malignant forces in a dwelling, Mills said it's nothing like the movies. The spirits usually don't know they are dead and continue their daily routine as if they were still alive.

"It's very rare we run across an intelligent spirit," Mills said.

The Hunters do investigations a few times a month, but not at particular times as much of it is just superstition, Mills said.

People interested can apply to join the group through their Web site, spirithunterspi.com.

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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu
October 22, 2008

Half the Battle: Rock-tober

Joe Cunningham
Opinion Editor



Barack Obama is the newest Backstreet Boy. His latest album, "Changes," features the chart-topping hit "Yes We Can."

If you've been to any rally or event held in honor of Obama, you know this. The chanting, the cheering... it's a rock concert. Welcome to Rocktober.

Now, the rock star is delivering a slew of great hits to the public, don't get me wrong.

His words are pretty, but they are just repackaged. John McCain supports corporate tax cuts, which, in all honesty, is boring.

However, if you narrow that statement down and say "John McCain supports tax cuts for Big Oil!" and, by God, you've got yourself a controversy.

And don't get me started on taxes. I don't have the time or the energy to dive into that Great Beyond, and, even if I did, I don't think you do.

His "songs" are a bit repetitive. Repeating the same line over and over again really only works for Rage Against the Machine.

Obama is still having problems with his past associations.

Now, Bill Ayers isn't exactly an American hero, but Obama doesn't deserve a second McCarthyist movement against him.

The Ayers issue is still floating around, but bringing it up again reeks of desperation.

It didn't work in the primaries, and it isn't working now. Sorry, republicans.

Go out and hammer him on the issues. It's not that hard, guys.

Hey, McCain hasn't helped himself much in the last few weeks, that much is certain. He looks kind of scary these days.

You can tell he's not helping himself because we've returned to the Clintonian tactics of attacking Obama's character rather than his policies.

McCain himself hasn't been taking the shots at Obama, but his advertisements and his vice president, Sarah Palin, have.

We're close to the end. McCain is pulling campaign stations out of vital states while Obama is holding rallies throughout the conservative states.

McCain's own state, Arizona, only shows him at seven points ahead of Obama.

The state has voted for a democrat once since 1948.

Our rock star, Barack Obama, is on a successful tour, and, love him or hate him, he seems to be coming to a White House near you.

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Searching for beauty in mirrors despite society's expectations

Bethany Frank
Guest Columnist



Long, lean, perfect build, Baywatch breasts, the ultimate Barbie doll.

Did you know that Barbie is a 6' 101 lb. woman with a 39" bust size, and a store mannequin is a 6' plastic replica of a woman with a 34" bust?

Meanwhile, the average woman is only 5'4" and weighs 145 pounds with an average bust size of 36.5", according to Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders, Inc.

Women should be able to look into the mirror without a doubt that they are beautiful. They should see their radiance.

But because of society's influence, they don't. I don't.

In society's beauty pageant, who feels like a winner?

We are taught from birth: stomach in, chest out. We are taught that unless we are beautiful no man will desire us. No man will ask me to be his bride.

Women put themselves through immense amounts of torture to reach this ideal beauty.

According to a study conducted by the nonprofit YMCA, nearly 11.7 million cosmetic surgical and nonsurgical procedures were performed in the US in 2007 – a 446 percent increase in 10 years.

The most popular of these procedures: botox injections, liposuction and breast augmentation.

Women spend millions of dollars on beauty products in a lifetime in order to obtain some ideal beauty.

They spend $7 billion a year, an average of about $100 each, on cosmetics and beauty products, according to the YMCA study.

For what?

We try so hard to please someone else, but we find disappointment in every mirror we come across.

We expect someone else to find our beauty, but we don't see the beauty in our mirror.

Reflections are funny things. We often see what we want to see, and typically that's not always something beautiful.

We strive to be desired, and we are taught that beauty is the key to a man's heart.

But what is beauty?

Is it something you can get from a box or a pill or a membership?

Is beauty the few gorgeous girls willing to be placed in magazines or on billboards?

No.

Beauty is the sky after a horrible storm. Beauty is the way you look right when you wake up. Beauty is that person in the mirror when you get ready for bed.

Beauty is not something we should need to pay for.

But why don't we see that beauty in the mirror?

Why do we find the desire to torture ourselves each morning? Do we do it to make ourselves feel better or to meet someone else's demands?

Reality shows such as "Extreme Makeover" and "Hollywood" convince us that surgery is the only alternative when we feel like the black sheep.

Diets such as Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig and Special K, while ideally something that we should want to do to become a healthier, happy us, have become torturous techniques in attempt to keep up with society's impossible demands.

Some women even take dieting to the extreme and physically hurt themselves to meet this ideal beauty.

One percent of female adolescents have anorexia, and four percent of college-age women have bulimia, according to research conducted by Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders, Inc.

But why?

How many women watch beauty pageants and wish they possessed the same beauty as the beauty queen?

How many women pass up opportunities to flaunt their beauty because they fail to see how captivating they truly are?

You are beautiful. You are captivating. You are breathtaking.

In today's beauty pageant, we are all winners. We just fail to see the beauty we capture.

The views expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or its affiliates. The Current Sauce is constantly seeking articulate, informed writers to contribute their opinions on various topics. We will edit all columns for grammar, spelling and AP style, but we will never edit your ideas. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site, www.thecurrentsauce.com. For more information, attend The Current Sauce meetings in 227 Kyser Hall Mondays at 5 p.m.

Obama strikes terror

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



In the most recent debate, Sen. John McCain suggested that Sen. Barack Obama answer questions about his relationship with William Ayers.

Ayers' name has been thrown around in newspaper headlines and on the evening news, yet some people still don't know who he is.

According to suntimes.com, Ayers was a member of the Black Panthers who plotted to destroy some New York landmarks and different stores. He was also part of a group called "Weather Underground," which is a group that protested U.S. policies by bombing the Pentagon, the U.S. Capitol and some other government buildings.

After surrendering in 1980, Ayers and his wife moved to Hyde Park, Chicago. This was after the charges against them were dropped because of improper surveillance.

As explained in detail on ibdeditorials.com, Ayers went on to be the education professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Somewhere along the way he met Obama.

In the 1990s, Ayers and his wife hosted a "meet and greet" at their home for Obama during his first run for state senator.

Later in 2001, Ayers donated money to Obama's campaign. Ayers and Obama also served on a board together from 1999 until 2002. According to the Sun Times, this particular board met four times a year, making Obama's claim of not associating with Ayers a lie.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, the New York Times ran a story about Ayers' book, "Fugitive Days." According to the New York Times, in this book Ayers says, "I don't regret setting bombs. I feel we didn't do enough."

It is scary enough that Ayers is still out on our streets, but to think that Obama, who could be our next president, is associated with this man is absolutely terrifying to me.

No matter how many times Obama claims he has nothing to do with Ayers, facts are facts. He has received money from an unrepentant terrorist and yet when asked about this, he dances his way around the questions.

I do not understand what kind of person claiming to have good intentions would not refuse this man's money and help. Ayers is a man who clearly hates America and wants to destroy America's prosperity.

This is all on record and no matter how much Obama continues to lie about his relationships with crazy people, the truth is out there if you look for it.

Our country has seen more than its share of terrorist attacks. I hate to say this, but if we elect Obama as president, we are asking for terrorists, just like Ayers, to come after our country.

As stories about Ayers and Jeremiah Wright continue to pour out, we must realize that Obama cannot be trusted.

Just like Gov. Mike Huckabee said at the RNC, "Maybe the most dangerous threat of an Obama presidency is that he would continue to give madmen the benefit of the doubt.

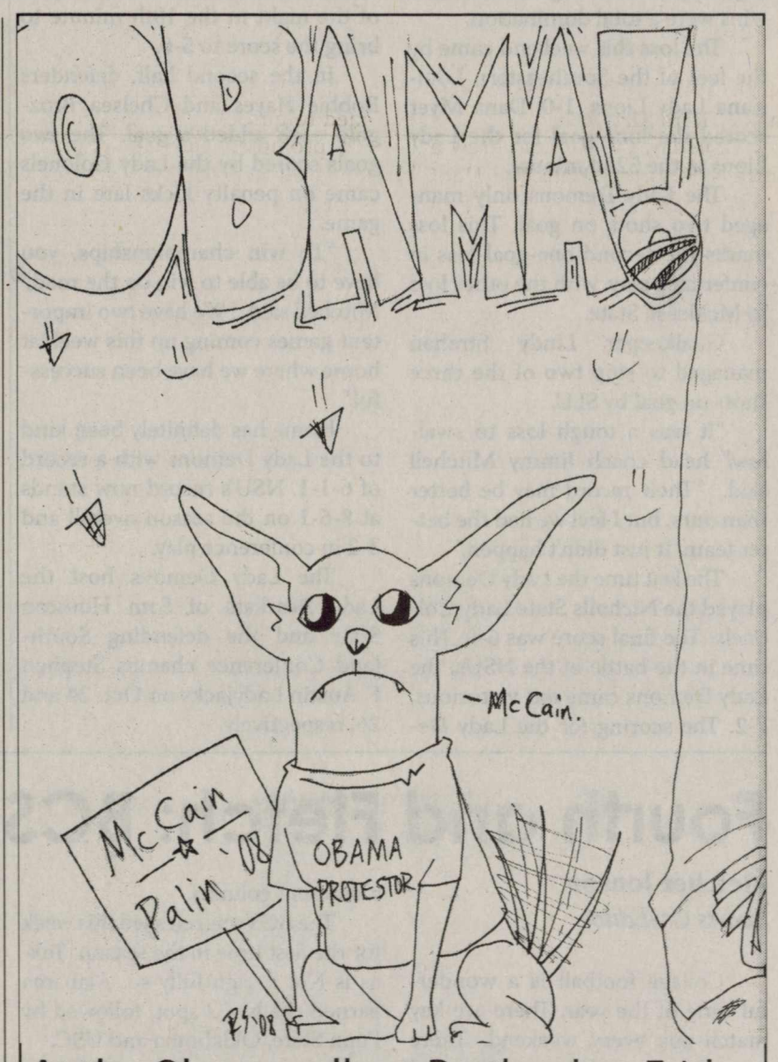
If he's wrong just once, we will pay a heavy price." The transcript of Huckabee's speech can be found on foxnews.com as well as cnn.com.

We cannot afford the risk of Obama being president. This is about our country's safety and future.

Please, for our country's sake, think about this. Don't take my word for it. Look it up.

THE CURRENT SAUCE

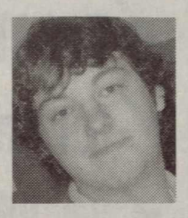
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At the Obama rally at Prather last Friday
Richelle Stephens/The Current Sauce

Apathy angers spirited student

Devon Drake
Web Editor



"Classes are interfering with my college experience."

"I only need C's to graduate."

Over the past three years I've spent at NSU, I've heard these two phrases hundreds of times.

One would think I'd be used to hearing them by now, but it still appalls me when I hear a student say either one.

The fact that anyone can downplay the importance of his or her education in such a manner baffles me.

I can think of a plethora of reasons why the apathy of these students drives me insane, but one thought surpasses the rest:

The choices you make while at NSU will affect the rest of your life.

What you're studying now will be your livelihood once you leave.

How could anyone treat such an important aspect of his or her life with such passiveness?

Think about that for a moment.

The people you see blowing off classes will some day be responsible for knowing that information.

Sure, some classes may not be as important, such as "Exploring the Arts," but when you see a nursing major skipping "Methods of Medication Dosage Calculation," something is wrong.

I don't know about you, but when I'm in the hospital, I want to be assured that my nurse knows the correct dosage of Heparin before I'm injected.

Another key part of education is the actual application of that knowledge.

Sometimes, I'm amazed by how apathetic some students are when presented with the chance to actually practice what they've been studying. I've done two internships and am involved in two or three projects dealing with my major.

These experiences provided me with an insight into the "real world," and assured me that I'm going to enjoy what I do for the rest of my life.

Conversely, I have friends who have avoided the chance to experience what they'll be doing after college. One of them came back to NSU to get a different degree.

I'm not saying every student at NSU is unconcerned with the future. In fact, I've seen many examples to the contrary.

Take, for example, The Current Sauce.

The publication you are reading right now is researched, written and produced by a staff of students, predominantly journalism students, who spend a portion of their free time working for a publication that will probably help them find a job when they leave this university.

Most students look at The Sauce as a collection of stories people ram out in a few minutes, much like this article.

However, when I look at The Sauce, I see hours of work from students who run around campus performing interviews and editors who stay up until the crack of dawn designing the paper, all for the sake of gaining experience, so when they go out into the world, they'll know what they're doing.

I hope students realize the importance of the classes they're taking at NSU and start making an investment in their future.

I might be flying to Bloomington, Ill. for a job interview soon. I'll be damned if I want a pilot who skipped the class on landing.

Turnovers burn Demons

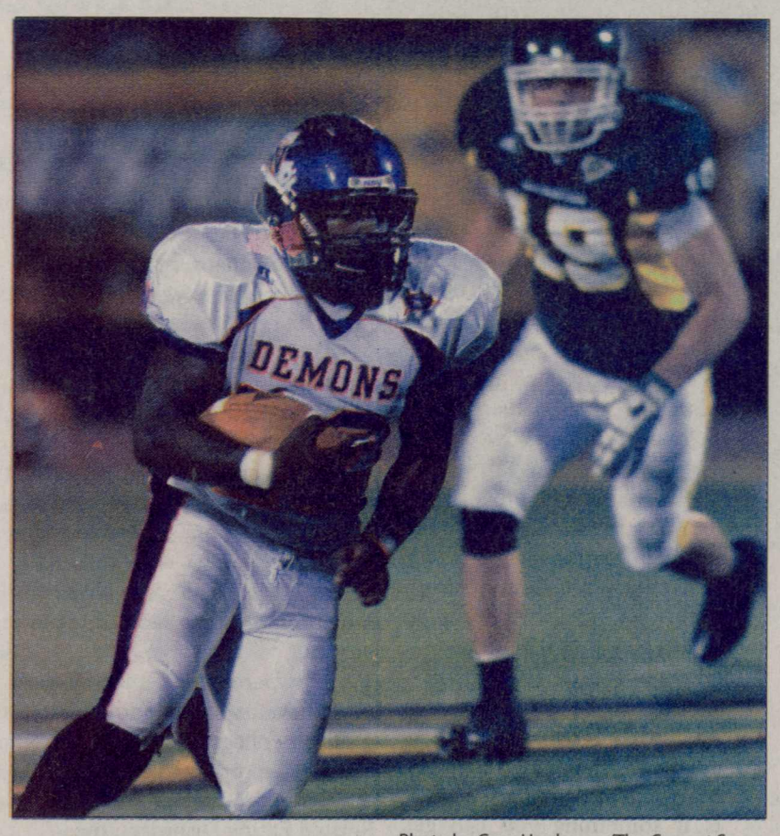


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Byron Lawrence rushes for more than 100 yards for a third straight game.

Stephen Borne
Sauce Reporter

The Northwestern State Demons faced the Southeastern University Lions Saturday at the venerable Strawberry Stadium in Hammond, La.

Going into this game, the Demons had a record of 27-24 against Southeastern.

Including this game, NSU's record is 27-25. The Demons started game play against Southeastern in 1935. They stopped playing in 1985 until the series continued in 2003.

When it comes to playing Southeastern at Turpin Stadium, the Demons have beaten Southeastern every time since 2003.

In the Demons' first game against Southeastern in 2003, they pummeled the Lions with the final score being 87-27.

It was a tough loss this weekend with the final score being 26-21.

Head coach Scott Stoker believes the players need to step up and play well every single game, according to Doug Ireland's article, "Little things keep Demons from 2-0 start in S.C."

The team needs to become more consistent, Stoker said. There were too many turnovers in the game, including two fumbles on the Lions' 21 and 10-yard lines, Stoker said.

Senior running back Byron Lawrence rushed for 159 yards on 29 carries with a touchdown.

Drew Branch completed 20 of 33 passes for 256 yards in his first start of the season. He added two touchdowns and an interception.

Once students mess up, they must either jump back up and claim their territory or they will keep getting knocked around by the other team.

This weekend, the Demons will return home to play the Sam Houston State Bearkats at the homecoming game at 2 p.m.

NSU is 1-1 in conference play, 4-3 overall while the Bearkats are 0-2 in conference play, 2-3 overall.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Quarterback Drew Branch throws for 256 yards in his first start of the season.

Soccer scores big

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

For the Lady Demons soccer team, this weekend was nearly a mirror image of the one before.

Both weekends, the Lady Demons went 1-1, with the losses being in heartbreaking fashion. The wins were a total domination.

The loss this weekend came by the feet of the Southeastern Louisiana Lady Lions, 1-0. Dana Myer scored the lone goal for the Lady Lions in the 52nd minute.

The Lady Demons only managed two shots on goal. This loss marks the second one-goal loss in conference play, with the other loss to McNeese State.

Goalkeeper Lindy Strahan managed to stop two of the three shots on goal by SLU.

"It was a tough loss to swallow," head coach Jimmy Mitchell said. "Their record may be better than ours, but I feel we had the better team. It just didn't happen."

The last time the Lady Demons played the Nicholls State Lady Colonels. The final score was 6-0. This time in the battle of the NSUs, the Lady Demons came out victorious, 7-2. The scoring for the Lady Demons started off early when junior defender Lacie Hughes scored her first goal of the season in the first minute of game play.

Chelsea Gibbs scored the second goal in the seventh minute, and Kayce Schultz scored the third and fourth goals only three minutes apart. Gibbs netted her second goal of the night in the 18th minute to bring the score to 5-0.

In the second half, defenders Bobbie Hayes and Chelsea Brozgold each added a goal. The two goals scored by the Lady Colonels came on penalty kicks late in the game.

"To win championships, you have to be able to win on the road," Mitchell said. "We have two important games coming up this week at home where we have been successful."

Home has definitely been kind to the Lady Demons with a record of 6-1-1. NSU's record now stands at 8-6-1 on the season overall and 3-2 in conference play.

The Lady Demons host the Lady Bearkats of Sam Houston State and the defending Southland Conference champs Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks on Oct. 24 and 26, respectively.

Recent Demon Events

10/15 Volleyball vs. UTA*	W	3-0
10/17 Soccer @ SLU*	L	0-1
10/18 Football @ SLU*	L	21-26
10/18 Volleyball @ Texas St*	L	0-3
10/19 Soccer @ Nicholls*	W	7-2

*Denote conference game

Upcoming Demon Events

10/23	Volleyball vs. UTSA*	7 p.m.
10/24	Soccer vs. SHSU*	7 p.m.
10/25	**Football vs. SHSU* (HC)**	**2 p.m.**
10/25	Volleyball vs. TAMU-CC*	7 p.m.
10/26	Soccer vs. S.F.A.*+	2 p.m.

*Denoes conference game
+Denotes Senior Day

Injury bug bites volleyball team

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-editor

The Lady Demons volleyball season has been filled with injuries and streaks of losses, and last week the NSU volleyball team ended its losing streak, but may have started another one.

The Lady Demons hosted the Lady Mavericks of the University of Texas at Arlington on Oct. 15 and ended their season-high four-game losing streak by the score of three sets to none.

Leading the way for the Lady Demons was Yelena Enwere, who had 13 kills and only one error.

Markie Robichau also added nine kills and 12 digs. The Lady Demons combined for a total of 49 kills with only 12 errors, leaving their average at .319, the highest for the Lady Demons in conference play all season.

"We needed a win so bad," head coach Brittany Uffelman said. "We knew we couldn't take a team to four or five [sets] because of our injuries; we just don't have the depth. We made some adjustments, if you noticed Megan Manning was hitting for us, and she was our libero all last year."

Hoping to build off the momentum of a win, the Lady Demons then traveled to San Marcos, Texas to face off against the Texas State Lady Bobcats.

However, the momentum gained from the victory over UTA was not enough to propel the Lady Demons ahead of the Lady Bobcats, losing in straight sets 3-0.

The only real bright spot for the Lady Demons was Yelena Enwere, who led the team in kills with seven. Zanny Castillo led the team in digs with 13.

The hitting averages between the two games were at both ends of the spectrum.

The Lady Demons had a hitting percentage of .319 against UTA and a .059 hitting percentage against Texas State.

The Lady Demons next begin a four-game home stretch, starting with University of Texas at San Antonio Lady Road Runners, tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

Passing will be a key factor for the Lady Demons to win.

Uffelman stressed the importance of passing for the team's success so setter Megan Dockery can stay set and improve the quality of her passes.

NSU is 7-11 overall and 2-7 in Southland Conference play.

Fourth and Fletch: BCS equals BS

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

College football is a wonderful time of the year. There are key match-ups every weekend. There are upsets, exciting games and blowouts. But here is one thing that always puzzles me and in some way baffles me every year.

There's this little thing called the BCS – Bowl Championship Series – that determines who plays in the National Championship.

The BCS, or as I like to so cleverly call it, the Bull Crap System, started with Tennessee winning the first championship in 1998.

Since then, there has been nothing but confusion, disappointment and a little happiness to tag along, if your team didn't get shafted.

Of course, if there are two undefeated teams, they should play for the title, unless it's Hawaii or someone.

That said, there's still an argument. Why penalize them for winning all the games they were scheduled? That is why a playoff system needs to be enforced.

Division 1-AA, a.k.a the Football Championship Subdivision, is doing it right.

They take the conference winners and let them play it out. Why can't the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) do it that way? There are things that come to mind, but that's a different column.

The BCS was released this week for the first time in the season. Texas is No. 1, rightfully so. Alabama earned the No. 2 spot, followed by Penn State, Oklahoma and USC.

It infuriates me that USC is in the top five. Florida is ranked five in the AP Poll, with USC at six. Florida is No. 10 in the BCS. How? That's all I can ask. It doesn't make sense.

No one can argue USC's strength of schedule. Sure, they destroyed Ohio State, but it was Ohio State without Beanie Wells, which is like the Saints without Drew Brees or the Patriots without Tom Brady.

What irritates me even more is Oklahoma State is ranked behind USC in the AP Poll and BCS.

OSU is undefeated in what I think is the second best conference, the Big XII. Texas Tech is in the same position.

There is no need to put numbers in a computer to figure out who is playing for the National Championship.

Every conference needs to have a championship game, regardless of how many schools are in the conference.

There needs to be a playoff system. The bowl games don't have to be eliminated. Contracts with the sites can be kept. Revenue would not go down. People would still make money.

This is something people have been screaming for years. Of course people would go to the games. I'd go if I could afford it.

The first time the BCS really hit me was the 2003 season: LSU vs. Oklahoma for the championship.

Should OU have been in it? Absolutely not. OU didn't even win the conference championship, so how could they win the national title?

It should have been LSU vs. USC. The next season Auburn, USC and OU go undefeated. Auburn finished undefeated in the best and toughest conference in the nation.

They get the short end of the BCS stick and are left out. With a playoff system this would never happen.

I'm sure people would argue seeds in the playoffs. But if the game is being played on the field instead of allowing the computers to play its own game, the losers only have themselves to blame.

I propose the FBS moves to a 16-team playoff. Take the conference winners, and fill the rest with at-large teams. Seed them 1-16, let them play it out. Whoever wins the title deserves it. I know it would be a long process, but it would result in a fair champion.

I could continue to bash the BCS, but I'm running out of room for our page.



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Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 11

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Student rebuts common opinions associated with Halloween.

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Volleyball team tries to make up for lost ground.

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Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Weather

Wednesday 73°/41°

Thursday 77/47°

Friday 80°/46°

Saturday 82°/49°

Sunday 80°/48°

Monday 79°/54°

Tuesday 81°/55°

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Fraternity suspended for alleged activities

David Royal
News Editor

NSU officials and the Kappa Sigma Fraternity headquarters staff are in the middle of an investigation to uncover the happenings and motivations of an off-campus event held by NSU's Theta Mu chapter of Kappa Sigma.

The NSU chapter of Kappa Sigma held an alleged "slave auction" on Sept. 15 at the Student Body, a local club in Natchitoches.

Dean of Students Chris Maggio, who is part of NSU's group of investigators, said that at this time he did not wish to reveal the specific events that took place, but said members of the fraternity displayed "insensitive actions toward others."

Maggio explained that the auction was brought to the university's attention on Friday, Sept. 17 after students saw pictures from the event that they believed to be racist toward the black community on the social networking Web site Facebook.

After being informed of the pictures, Maggio said the university took immediate action to investigate the situation and quickly informed the executive director of Kappa Sigma's national headquarters.

Upon the headquarters staff's suggestion, NSU officials suspended the university chapter of Kappa Sigma from on-campus activities until the investigation is complete and a definite decision is made.

Nick Courville, president of the local Kappa Sigma chapter, and Steve Horton, faculty adviser for the fraternity, were both advised by the fraternity's senior staff to not discuss or disclose any information until the investigation is finalized.

The senior officials of Kappa Sigma Fraternity are taking the primary role in the investigation, Maggio said.

Mitchell Wilson, Executive Director of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, said the investigation has been running smoothly and is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

At that time, Wilson said his staff will publish a press release and will be able to publicly answer more questions.

Maggio said, however, NSU officials are "not just sitting back," and are conducting their own independent investigation.

Thus far, Maggio said the young men of the fraternity have been easy to work with and have had good attitudes under the circumstances.

"It has been a very good process, and everyone has been open and willing to answer questions," Maggio said.

The university has been in close contact with the senior staff of Kappa Sigma and ultimately plans to support their evaluation and judgment of NSU's chapter.

Although the fraternity faces possible punishment for their actions, Maggio said he has not discussed any specific punishment options with members of Kappa Sigma.

Throughout the NSU student body, different opinions have been expressed concerning the fraternity's actions.

Kim Maggio, a sophomore nursing major, said she believes members of Kappa Sigma crossed the line with the auction and should face some sort of punishment based on whether or not their intent was to be derogatory toward the black community.

Maggio, who is white, said black students have every right to be upset over the auction.

Specifically, black students on campus seem to have displayed the most emotion concerning the auction.

Junior social work major Monique Chachere, who is black, said she was initially extremely offended when she heard of the auction. She added now that some time has passed, she is not quite so angry.

Regardless of her subsided anger, however, Chachere said the fraternity still deserves to be punished.

She suggested a possible punishment should be suspension from on-campus activities for an entire semester.

Senior business management major Ellis Bussey disagrees with Chachere's opinion. Although he was originally shocked at the fraternity's actions, Bussey, who is black, said he does not really care.



Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

Mitchell Wilson, Executive Director of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, said he expects the investigation of NSU's chapter will be finalized by the end of the week. Until then, university officials have suspended the Theta Mu chapter of Kappa Sigma from on-campus events.

Bussey added that he has a friend who is in Kappa Sigma and after he thought about what might have actually taken place at the event, Bussey said he thought "it was kind of funny."

Marquis Montgomery, president of NSU's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said this same difference of opinion is present within his organization.

Montgomery added, however, that because not everyone in the NAACP feels the same way about the situation, he cannot at this time speak for the organization.

Montgomery said he and his members are meeting tonight and will discuss where NAACP should go from here.

Montgomery said he actually saw pictures of the Kappa Sigma auction that depicted attendees with their faces painted black. Montgomery said this "blackface" illustrated in the pictures was incredibly offensive to him.

He said he personally believes a just consequence for the action should not be a radical punishment, but instead the members of the fraternity should be simply "educated."

All students interviewed, however, admitted that they have been unable to make a fair judgment because they have been unable to decipher what is fact and rumor.

"If everything that is being said is true then they [those involved in the auction] are stupid, but in a situation like this, it is easy for facts to be blown out of proportion," sophomore English major John Staton said.

Chris Maggio said in order to prevent these facts concerning the auction from being misconstrued or exaggerated, NSU officials have not tried to hide anything.

"We have dispelled any rumors and have tried not to sensationalize this," Maggio said.

Maggio explained that he understands that there are displeased students around campus because of this investigation, and he said he encourages them to "believe in the process" and trust the final decision of Kappa Sigma Fraternity's senior staff.

The NSU community can turn this situation into a positive learning experience by learning to have more understanding concerning others' views and backgrounds, Maggio said.

Maggio said, in his opinion, the university is moving in the right direction, but this investigation could act as a roadblock.

"I think it is up to us at NSU to realize that we are going to do the right thing," Maggio said. "We have some great students, and it will work out in the end."

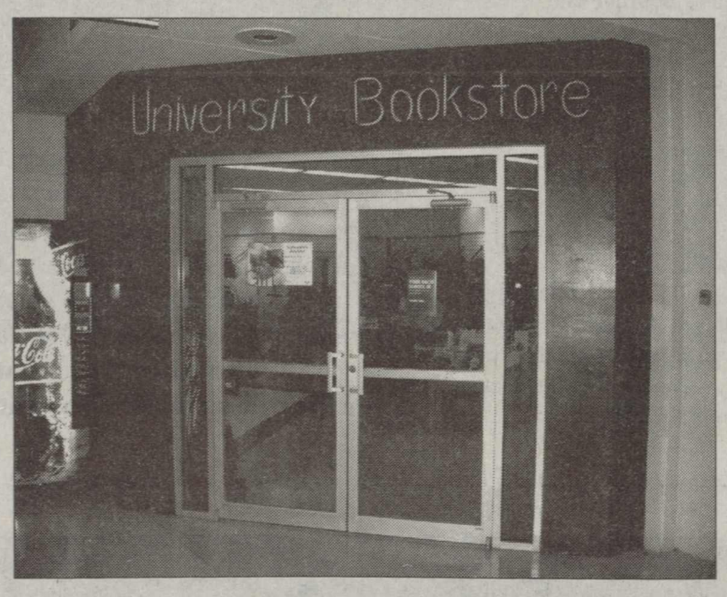


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

At 12:03 p.m. yesterday, University Police were advised to keep an eye out for a black male wearing baggy grey sweatpants regarding a situation occuring at the University Bookstore.

About an hour later, the driver of a white Crown Victoria was questioned by police after being involved in an "incident" and agreed to have his vehicle searched.

During the search, police found a textbook that was still wrapped in plastic in the driver's vehicle. At 1:28 p.m., the driver was read his rights and arrested for shoplifting.

Det. Doug Prescott with University Police said so far an additional male has been arrested for shoplifting. One of the males who was arrested is a student at NSU, Prescott said.

Until further paperwork is completed and the investigation progresses, Prescott explained he could not release any additional information. More information will be provided as released.

Beauty queen busted

Drug charge strips NSU student of title

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

The 2008 Miss Teen Louisiana USA, Lindsey Evans, was required to relinquish her crown and title Oct. 21 after being arrested the weekend before.

Lindsey Evans, beauty queen and freshman journalism major at NSU, was arrested on charges of leaving a restaurant without paying the check and for carrying marijuana in her purse.

Evans lost her crown 11 days before being able to pass it on to the 2009 Miss Teen Louisiana USA, who will be named on Nov. 1.

Three other women were arrested with her on the charge of not paying the $46 tab at a Posados in Bossier City, according to an article by the Shreveport Times.

The same article stated that the four women ordered and ate at Posados and left without paying their bill, and Evans left her purse behind. The manager had found the purse with Evans' driver's license and what the Chicago Tribune called "about 2 grams of suspected marijuana."

The four women returned for the purse, and Bossier City police officers recognized her from her license, according to an article in the Chicago Tribune.

According to articles in the Chicago Tribune and Shreveport Times, the Bossier City police booked all four women into the city jail on theft charges, three on drug charges and two on drug paraphernalia charges after searching the vehicle. Evans posted a $1,000 bond early Sunday, according to the Shreveport Times.

One of the women arrested with Evans said Evans had left cash for her share of the tab, and the other three were planning on paying with their debit cards. She said they thought the service was so slow that they just left without paying, according to the New York Journal and the Chicago Tribune. However, the Chicago Tribune also reported that Evans admitted not paying.

When contacted by The Current Sauce, Evans said she was advised by her lawyer not to talk to the media and was, therefore, unable to comment.

The story of Miss Teen Louisiana USA has been circulated far and wide, from the Shreveport Times to the Chicago Tribune to the New York Journal, but many NSU students still hadn't heard the news.

Although some students said they had not heard about the arrest at all, they still had opinions on the subject.

Freshman English education major Britaney Whittle said that as Miss Teen Louisiana USA, Evans was supposed to be a positive role model for Louisiana teens, and Whittle was disappointed in Evans' behavior.

"You shouldn't run for that [title] and then make those choices," Whittle said.

Freshman nursing major Lindsey Rogers agreed with Whittle.

"It doesn't make a good example for kids," Rogers said.

However, Rogers did not think her fellow freshman's mishap had much of an effect on NSU because she didn't even know it had happened.

Freshman business administration major Justin Givens said that if a person is going to be in the limelight that person should know what to keep private and what image to put out for the public.

"People have an image to uphold," Givens said. "It's a decision."

Givens said he doesn't think the university has been affected by Evans' arrest either.

"One person makes a mistake, one person deals with it," Givens said.

The Chicago Tribune reported that Evans must return her sash and crown to RPM Productions Inc., the pageant's sponsor, but she can keep any other prizes or cash equivalents. Evans, 18, is scheduled to appear in Bossier City Court Jan. 14, according to the Chicago Tribune.

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SGA makes strides in positive direction

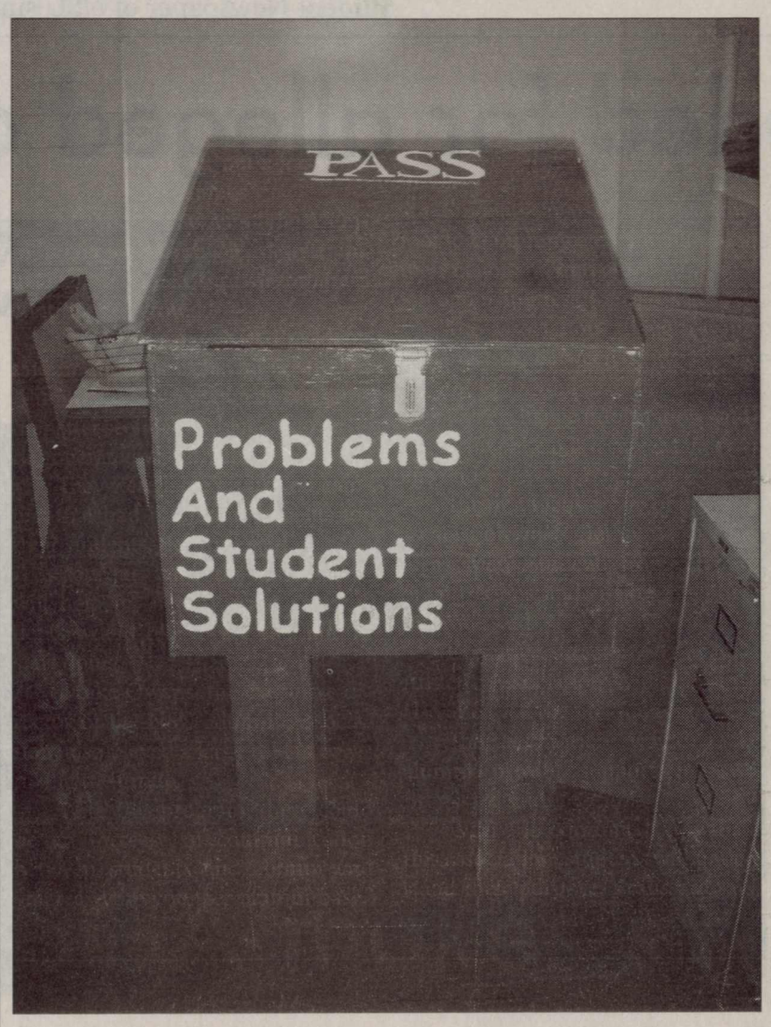


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

The SGA student affairs committee will be placing the PASS Box in the lobby of the Friedman Student Union today. The SGA invites students to fill out comment cards and place them in the box to inform senators of concerns.

David Royal
News Editor

With the semester more than halfway complete, the Student Government Association has had its hand in several measures to change and improve various aspects of student life.

By December the SGA hopes that students' problems with different issues, such as parking spaces and voting, will be significantly closer to being resolved, SGA president Cody Bourque said.

Bourque explained that some of these solutions will come from passed legislation, and other solutions may simply come from research and gaining a better understanding of what students want.

"In the past, the amount of legislation has been the watermark of SGA's success, but the amount of research conducted plays a large role as well," Bourque said.

He and his senators have strived to truly examine what students desire to have changed in the first part of the semester. They now hope to use what they have learned to produce effective legislation, Bourque said.

Thus far, the SGA has gauged student opinion through forums or surveys.

Student affairs commissioner Jason Thibodeaux is directing a new method in which students can voice their likes and dislikes.

Thibodeaux and his committee are officially implementing the PASS Box system today for the first time.

Students can fill out the designated comment cards by stating specific problems and providing their suggestions for solutions.

They can then place the cards in a locked container called the PASS Box – Problems And Student Solutions Box.

The box will allow students to express their opinions whenever they please, rather than only during forum meetings or designed surveys, Thibodeaux said.

"The system was tested at the last Meet Your Senator Day and had fantastic results," Thibodeaux said.

The PASS Box is located in the lobby of the Friedman Student Union.

One major issue currently being addressed by the SGA is student parking.

After working with the parking and traffic committee, SGA vice president Mark Daniels said he felt the need to look into the conditions of the campus parking lots and figure out which lots are used most by students.

Once he and the SGA closely examined the needs concerning parking lots, the student government assessed that the lot between the Creative and Performing Arts building and Boozman Hall is need of repair, due to its frequent use by commuters and NSU band members.

The SGA passed a bill this semester to recommend to the parking and traffic committee that the lot be repaired.

Additionally, Daniels said he is working to reduce the number of tickets given out to students due to students parking in invalid areas – more than 200 tickets concerning parking have been appealed by students this semester – by researching the exact number of parking spaces available to commuters and residents.

The SGA has already passed a bill to obtain these numbers, and once Daniels receives this information he hopes he will be able to inform students of valid parking areas. Then the SGA can implement possible solutions, such as a shuttle system, if they find it necessary.

In order to help alleviate long lines related to voting for SGA and homecoming elections, Bourque said the SGA is also looking to add online voting as an option for students.

Bourque said he expects the online system will be created and tested by the end of the semester and hopes it will be available for students by the spring SGA elections.

In the meeting this week, the SGA voted to appoint two students as new senators.

Bourque said with the addition of two new senators, the SGA has become even "younger" and less experienced.

He added, however, that all of his senators are enthusiastic and hardworking and all they need is a little bit of a learning curve for them to be truly influential.

Alumni and students plan for networking opportunities

Jeffrey Sholar
Sauce Reporter

The Student Government Association may have a way for students to feel more like alumni.

Still early in the development stages, the Student Alumni Association may be small, but it has some big ideas for the campus.

Members of SGA and the Alumni Center are working hard on trying to create and make sure this program continues to grow.

Cody Bourque, SGA President, said he thought of having a Student Alumni Association during the summer after seeing how bigger universities operated with them.

They were large groups on campus that had numerous benefits for their students, Bourque said.

Bourque said the association will help to identify what the students would like to see the alumni start doing.

Drake Owens, the executive director of the NSU Alumni Association, also played a large role in organizing the group.

With this program, there could be an increase of communication between students and alumni and "increase the younger alumni base," Owens said.

According to the vision statement of this new association, members hope to "promote the interests of and understanding between students of the past, present and future."

SGA treasurer Lauren Michel said this understanding will "create ties" between the students and alumni.

Students can use this networking tool to communicate with alumni in their major and find out about future job opportunities, Bourque said.

The association, though, wants the meeting between students and alumni to be more social. That way they can exchange information without feeling like it is a career fair, Owens said.

The first focus group of this new association met Oct. 9 to discuss ideas. Many students from different organizations and majors attended, Bourque said.

Executive director of the NSU Athletic Association Will Broussard also attended the first focus group.

The association would make alumni private support increase, Broussard said.

With the continued growth of this association, students will understand their purpose, Broussard said. This way, the association could be a success.

"It has to be," Broussard said.

During the focus group, ideas were tossed around to see how the leadership of this association would be organized.

However, it's still too early to determine whether the association might set up scholarships, Michel said.

Even with the first focus group, the association is still looking for fresh ideas.

Students can share any of their plans that could benefit this association and make it grow.

"We can't have Student Alumni Association without bringing students," Bourque said.

This does not only mean on the NSU campus. The association would like to get online students involved and hopefully some other campuses, Bourque said.

But both groups will have to work hard.

"I think the benefit is there," Owens said.

With determination, the Student Alumni Association may become a large organization on campus.

"Can't wait to see what will grow out of it," Bourque said.



Photo by Jeffrey Sholar/ The Current Sauce

SGA President Cody Bourque and executive director of the NSU Alumni Association Drake Owens both believe the Student Alumni Association will allow students to connect and build relationships with NSU alumni.

At a focus group meeting scheduled for Oct. 9., members of the association discussed the semester's agenda.

They hope the formation of the new organization will open more doors for students after graduation.

Police Blotter

10/22

10:17 p.m. – Subjects pulling pranks at University Place I building two

10:20 p.m. – Subjects advised to discontinue actions

10/27

11:11 a.m. – Subject has allergic reaction to milk in Health and Human Performance building

10/28

9:18 a.m. – Subject stuck in elevator in Fournet Hall

9:35 a.m. – Subject stuck in elevator in Bienvenu Hall

9:40 a.m. – Subject out of elevator in Bienvenu Hall

**The Current Sauce collects the police blotter each week from the campus police department.

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Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
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October 29, 2008

Violin professor takes center stage

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

NSU professor Andrej Kurti practices his violin in his office to prepare for his Nov. 3 concert in Magale Recital Hall. Kurti, a widely recognized recording artist, has performed this semester with the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band.

Light filters in through the windows of Andrej Kurti's studio in the afternoon, splaying across the blue plush lining of his open violin case.

A small icon decorated with an Orthodox Christian image rests against the neck of the exquisitely carved wooden instrument. The low, clear sound of a nearby euphonium rehearsal seeps through the walls.

Kurti leans back in his chair at his computer, catching a breath after his hectic day of back-to-back violin and viola lessons and long rehearsals with the orchestra.

It's 5 p.m. and his day is nowhere near over. Each night, he practices violin for about four hours to keep his bow steady and his fingers in shape, building up strength for his next solo performance.

His concert, scheduled for Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall, will feature music by Bach and composer Eugene Ysaye, on whom Kurti wrote his dissertation for his doctorate. The classical pieces certainly reflect Kurti's skill, but his vast repertoire includes more than just sonatas.

Kurti, a professor of violin at NSU, has been featured as a recording artist for more than 45 albums on electric and acoustic violin. Dozens of posters and photographs are taped against a wall in his studio, displaying his past performances and future plans.

One of the images documents Kurti on the day before his 30th birthday, when he chimed in on an album produced by Blue Griffin Records to perform music by Pink Floyd and Queen.

Kurti, now 36, said he has donned braids to play with a hip hop label and tuxedos for more classical fare. When the spotlight is turned off, Kurti wears blazers, T-shirts and slacks, a red braided bracelet and a small silver earring in his left ear.

Some students identify him by his strong, lilting accent and social personality, which he attributes to his Serbian upbringing.

Others recognize his energy during halftime performances with the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band. This year's Led Zeppelin show would be incomplete without his duet with saxophone professor Paul Forsyth.

One thing remains certain. No matter what genre of music with which Kurti experiments, he said he is sure of his destiny – violin performance.

A native of Serbia – Srbija, as Kurti spells it – Kurti inadvertently determined what would become his artistic future when he was merely 4 years old.

He was sitting in his parents' kitchen, listening to music. Imitating a violinist, he rested a cutting board on one shoulder and used a spoon as his bow, moving it in time to the song.

His parents saw his potential and decided the next step was to enroll him in lessons, Kurti said.

When Kurti was just 16, he traveled to Russia to study violin performance at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory.

Kurti came to the U.S. and continued his education at the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga., then came to NSU for a job interview and said he instantly loved the town's polite, laid-back charm.

"There is something to Natchitoches, with all of these bed and breakfasts, and the craziness about the Christmas lights," he said. "I thought I was in a Walt Disney movie or something."

Now in his fifth year as a professor at NSU, Kurti teaches private violin and viola lessons to NSU students and works with associate professor of bassoon Douglas Bakenhus to help out with orchestra performances.

He acts humorous and energetic in class, but remains intensely focused.

In orchestra rehearsal, he often illustrates the way he imagines a particular phrase by standing up and demonstrating with an invisible bow, using his facial expressions to further the image.

His voice takes on the timbre of a decisive violin tone as he "ya-da-da-dahs" his way through the tricky intervals in a song.

In his studio, Kurti manages 19 students from places including Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Honduras and Venezuela, and is expecting two more international students in January.

Kurti occasionally asks his students to evaluate his interpretation of pieces before a performance.

This kind of feedback improves his perspective about the music, Kurti said.

"Sometimes they are shy, but then I tell them, like, 'Look, if I was you, what would I change?'" Kurti said. "And they make some good points."

Kurti said he looks forward to playing Ysaye's music, which he considers complex and very challenging.

"It sometimes sounds like there are two or three instruments playing at the same time," Kurti explained. "Very advanced. Crazy, but beautiful."

The concert, a 45-minute collection of solo violin sonatas, reflects the versatility not only of Kurti's musical gifts, but also of his role at NSU.

"It's a dream job," he said. "It's like, you teach one-on-one lessons, talk about music all day long and then have three days off the week to travel and do concerts and everything. It's awesome."

For a man who has traveled the world as a performer, Kurti seems content with staying in Natchitoches for the time being.

Lessons don't limit him; he still performs from time to time with different rock and classical groups in the area. The posters on his wall are a testament to his experience and a clear representation of the talent NSU has attracted from all over the world. Kurti loves to travel, and he said he would like to see his family more often, but for now, he said he plans to stay put.

"I know that my destiny is music, but where, I don't know," Kurti said. "I never want to push the universe."



Photo by Michael Silver/The Current Sauce

ROTC cadets dash through the morning fog for a two-mile running test at the track.

ROTC cadets strive to meet goals

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor

Leanne Taylor, a sophomore psychology major, stretched her legs one Tuesday morning before a two-mile run test, keeping her muscles active for the brisk jog ahead.

Running won't be a huge part of her work after college – she plans to fly helicopters for active duty in the Army – but she said she appreciates the chance to stay in shape. She takes regular physical fitness tests to maintain her Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship requirements.

The Army ROTC elective curriculum at NSU prepares students to be commissioned as officers in the military once they graduate.

Among many other skills, cadets learn how to approach their opponents without detection and communicate with their peers as leaders.

Taylor, a Houston native, races with the NSU crew and works out on her own in addition to her physical training (PT) sessions with ROTC.

She wakes up at 5 a.m. to do sit-ups, push-ups and laps with the other cadets.

Even after years of training, Taylor still does not consider herself a morning person.

"Once you get up and you do it, you're like, 'Oh, I'm really glad I did that,' but the getting up part kind of sucks," Taylor said.

Kimberly Crosby, a freshman chemistry major originally from Shreveport, said she spends a lot of time in the armory outside of PT and class, but that she has come a long way since her modest beginnings as a junior ROTC cadet in high school. Her intentions weren't as serious as those of her peers, either.

"Honestly, it was to skip out on gym," Crosby said. "That's the honest truth. But it turned out to be a good decision, and I liked it."

Crosby said all of her best friends are in ROTC, and she feels like they have a family connection.

Like Crosby, Taylor says she relies on her fellow cadets for support and friendship.

"There's always someone you can call or someone to help you out with whatever you need," Taylor said.

A few weeks ago, Taylor went mudriding with a group of friends and got stuck in the dirt. The group called an ROTC cadet who helped tow the truck out of the mud.

"That was the first time I've ever done it, and probably the last time," Taylor said.

Taylor was a junior ROTC cadet in high school. She enrolled at NSU when she heard about the aviation science program here, but switched to psychology because she

cont. on p.4



Roderick Wilson and Rachel McCalister were named 2008 homecoming queen and king at Saturday's football game.

CLARIFICATION

Oct. 15, 2008, Volume 94, Issue 9
"New tattoo shop makes mark"

The owners of Natural Mystic are, in fact, active and approved members of the Alliance of Professional Tattooists. They have been in business in Natchitoches for 10 years. The article also contained some information that could not be verified for publication.

Leigh Gentry
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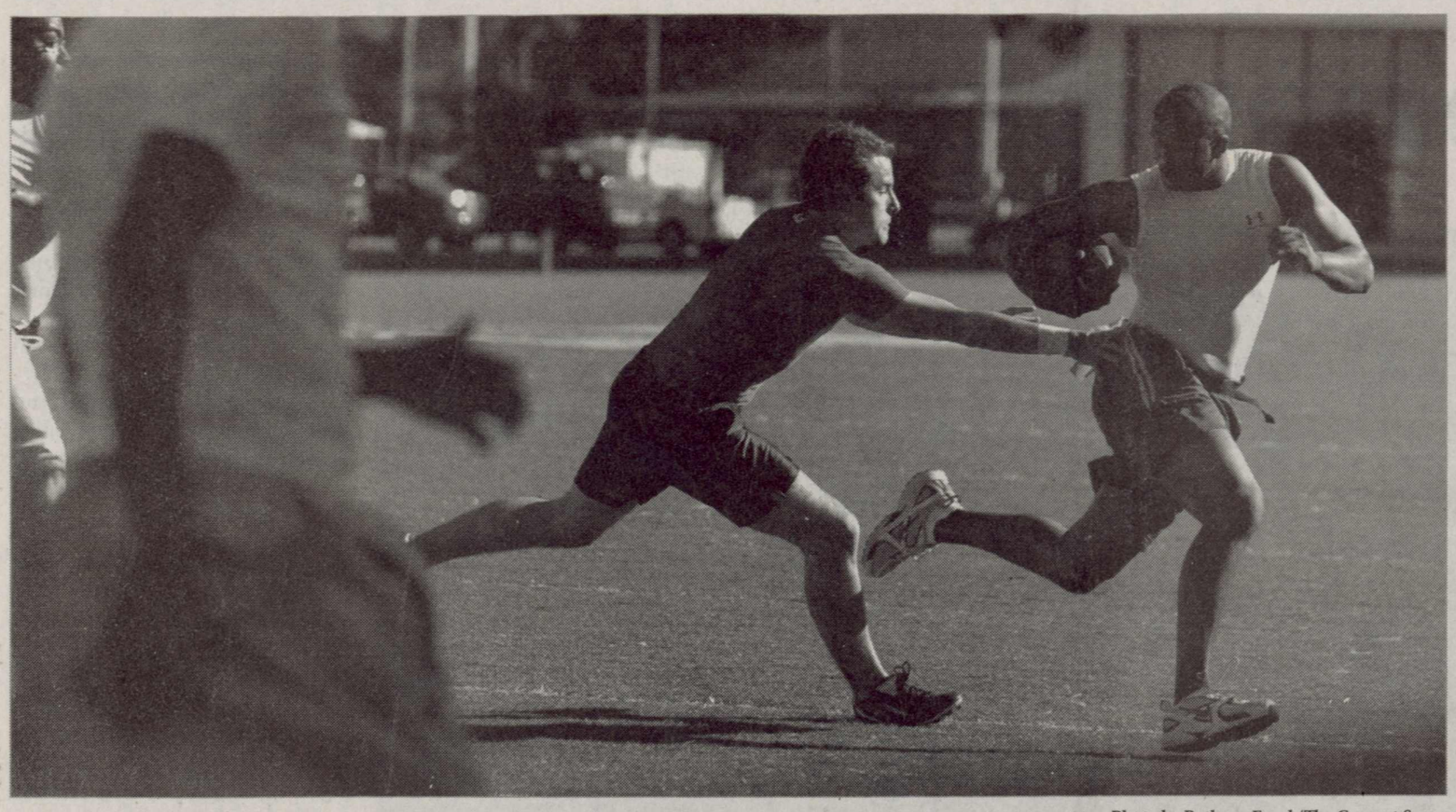


Photo by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce

Members of Phi Mu Alpha and Kappa Kappa Psi fraternities play flag football at Turpin Stadium Sunday.

Fraternity brothers battle it out

Bethany Frank
Sauce Reporter

The brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha put their harmonies aside Saturday afternoon to enjoy a game of flag football.

Because both fraternities are associated with the NSU Creative and Performing Arts department (CAPA), it is important that they work together and communicate, said Mason Kyle, Phi Mu Alpha football coach.

"If we aren't on the same page, stuff won't get done, and events will be a big mess," he said.

In order to encourage good communication and support brotherhood between the two organizations, the brothers decided to organize a flag football game.

"We wanted to do something together," Preston Spencer, Kappa Kappa Psi center and defensive tackle, said. "What better way than to go out there and beat the crap out of each other?"

More than 70 students dressed in red and blue – the prominent colors of each fraternity – to watch the fourth annual Black and Blue Bowl in Turpin Stadium.

Both teams began preparing early in the semester for the game. The teams played full-contact on the lines, but with flags everywhere else, Kyle said.

Kappa Kappa Psi members started conditioning more than a month in advance. They went to the gym daily and practiced three times a week. At practice they ran drills, set up plays and worked on different assignments such as blocking and running, Spencer said.

Phi Mu Alpha began practice at the beginning of September every Friday. There, the brothers stretched, moved into specialized drills and went into full team offense versus defense.

This enabled the team to project what the Kappa Kappa Psi defense would do, figure out the team chemistry and aid in their own conditioning, Kyle said. Phi Mu Alpha's Philip Medler scored the first touchdown of the game, but Kappa Kappa Psi defeated their opponents with a final score of 56-12.

"It was a hard fought game," Spencer said. "We started a little shaky and really beat ourselves, but we pulled together and were able to pull out a hard fought win."

While playing a sport, there will always be a winner, but the Black and Blue Bowl was about much more.

"The game went well, because it was meant for the two organizations to be out there and have fun, and both Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha did," Matt Reilly, Phi Mu Alpha defensive lineman/linebacker said.

The game opened the door for both fraternities and enabled CAPA students and sororities to support the brothers together.

Students brought posters baring phrases like "Anything you can do, Psi can do better" to the event, showing support for their favorite team.

The game also allowed both organizations to increase brotherly bonds with not only their active members, but alumni as well, said Giquan Garrett, Kappa Kappa Psi middle linebacker, running back and wide receiver.

With their dissonance now aside, the brothers of both organizations can join together to continue making CAPA events a success.

"The Kappa Kappa Psi versus Phi Mu Alpha game was one of the greatest bonding experiences I have had since I crossed Kappa Kappa Psi," Carlos Ortiz, outside backer and wide receiver, said. "All of us took on bumps and bruises from the game, but at the end of the day, it was all worth it."

ROTC

cont. from p.3

found it interesting.

She has been racing rowboats anywhere between 2,000 and 5,000 meters with the NSU Crew since the spring of her freshman year, when she decided she wanted to take a physically challenging exercise course.

She enjoys both crew and ROTC, but said she thinks ROTC is more difficult because it requires a greater commitment.

"In crew, you just – the physical element is there, and in ROTC there's a physical element, mental element and scholastic element," Taylor said.

In addition to the physical requirements of ROTC, Taylor and the other cadets participate in fundraising events and community service projects with the D.O.V.E.S., Inc. foundation, a nonprofit domestic violence shelter in Natchitoches.

Capt. Jaison Koonankeil said the group has also worked with local churches on various service projects.

Koonankeil accompanied the ROTC cadets on their six-mile run across campus one Thursday morning, inching along slowly in a large van. When a cadet stressed a leg injury, Koonankeil pulled over and picked her up.

Koonankeil said this year's group is cohesive and the cadets rarely complain about their work.

This experience will prepare them for their future duties as Army officers, he said.

Koonankeil arrived at NSU to work with the Army ROTC in September, but before that he spent five years in Germany and two years in Iraq as an active duty officer. He returned to America in October of 2007.

Upperclassmen hold leadership positions that prepare them for their post-graduation offices.

They guide the younger cadets, building up their confidence for tough events like the recent Ranger Challenge, a competition for which cadets run, navigate through obstacle courses and test their mental abilities.

"The Rangers are an elite group of infantry people. They're like the best of the regular Army. They're like infantrymen who carry everything on their back to accomplish their goal," Koonankeil explained. "Everything they do is physically tough, but also mentally tough."

The mental stimulation of the Ranger Challenge prepares students who plan to seek positions in the FBI and White House communications, Koonankeil said.

Applicants for these jobs are typically expected to provide college transcripts with letters of recommendation, and participation in the Challenge gives officers a concrete example of the cadets' work.

Riley Pendleton, a freshman general studies major, said he has not yet decided on his career path, but that military intelligence is on his list of options. With a class load of just 13 hours this semester, he spends most of his time focusing on his work with the ROTC.

"I'm kind of taking it easy this year, getting used to it – college and everything," Pendleton said.

The Ranger Challenge was intimidating for Pendleton, who said he wished the training for it would have started up earlier in the semester.

"It's pretty intense, like four miles of running. I wasn't really prepared for it this year, but next year I'm going to do it," Pendleton said.

There are about 54 cadets total in the ROTC program, including students at campuses in Shreveport and Leesville, Koonankeil said. The bulk of their education takes place at Thursday lab classes, when the students can meet on the Natchitoches campus.

Contracted cadets essentially agree to become officers in the Army and receive a scholarship, but non-contract cadets – usually freshmen and sophomores, Koonankeil said – are sometimes unsure of whether the Army is right for them. These students can experience the curriculum and benefit from PT while they decide. This year's group will be well-prepared for whatever comes after graduation, he said.

"They know they're about to enter the Army, and they know they're about to be officers, so they work hard to achieve that goal, but they're still able to have fun doing it. It's a good atmosphere," Koonankeil said.

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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu
October 29, 2008

BS'ing with the Bull: CinderRAYlla story

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor



I realize that this may be a bit late, with them down 3-1 to the Phillies in the World Series and tied 2-2 in game five, in the middle of the most epic rain delay ever. Still, nonetheless I feel it is very important to reflect on what the Tampa Bay Rays did this past season.

However, before we can move on with the great things they have done this season, I feel it is important to recap the Devil Rays/Rays history as a team.

The team got its start in the 1998 season as an expansion team, and up until this season, they have accumulated a record of 645-972.

They finished in last place in the AL East all but once, when they finished in fourth place in the 2004 season, with a record of 70-91. So, that is the amazing saga of the Devil Rays' first 10 years of baseball – short and sweet and not much to remember.

Then the 2008 season rolled around, and it came with a few minor changes, such as the "Devil" getting dropped. Instead of keeping a few veteran players, they got rid of them for minor league players like Evan Longoria. Instead of getting rid of former first overall pick B.J. Upton, they just moved him to the outfield. They also made trades for such players as Matt Garza, Dan Wheeler and Cliff Floyd.

All of these moves at the beginning of the season were seen by the experts as either "dumb," "stupid" or just showing that the Rays were in for a long season. Boy, were they wrong. At the end of the regular season, the Rays finished in first place in the AL with a record of 97-65, third best in the MLB. The crazy part is not the fact that they were able to overcome a decade of terrible baseball and go from worst to first. It's the way they did it.

At no point in time were they ever setting the world on fire with their bats. In the major statistical categories, at the end of the season, the Rays ranked 13th in runs scored with 774, 10th in home runs with 180, and 21st in batting average with .260. So, as you can see, none of those numbers would indicate that they were playing amazing baseball.

As far as pitching goes, they did rank third overall in E.R.A. with a team average of 3.82 and only held opponents batting average to .246, which is also third. But the funny thing about that is the Toronto Blue Jays finished ahead of the Rays in both pitching categories and didn't make the playoffs.

Not only did the Rays have to overcome 10 years of bad baseball, they had to overcome, according to the numbers, mediocre stats. Lucky for the Rays, the games aren't played on paper. With the 10 years of baseball and the mediocre stats, no one gave the Rays a chance against the White Sox in the opening round of the MLB playoffs.

The Rays beat the White Sox in four games. The next hurdle the Rays had to jump was the defending World Series Champions, the Boston Red Sox. Even before and especially after their game one loss to the Red Sox, no one gave them a chance, including me.

Then, with the Rays winning three straight games by a combined score of 35-13, everyone was still skeptical of the Rays' ability to win.

The Red Sox won two straight, bringing the series to a 3-3 tie, and again at that point everyone thought it was over.

Yes, even me.

But with the eventual ALCS MVP Matt Garza on the mound – name sound familiar? – the Rays shocked the world by beating the Red Sox 3-1, advancing to the World Series.

Though they were beaten by the Philadelphia Phillies in five games in the World Series, the season for the Rays has been one of great excitement. It has rekindled the love for baseball I used to have.

Even though the old saying goes, "No one remembers who came in second," I feel that the Tampa Bay Rays 2008 season is one that this particular adage doesn't apply to.

Half the Battle: Dating 101

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



What is the difference between "we're just talking" and "we're dating"?

I was talking to a friend of mine, asking him how he and his girlfriend were. You know, questions like "How long have you been dating?" and "When did you ask her out?" He informed me that they were not dating.

They were "just talking."

This couple goes everywhere together. Dinner, movies, the bar… I just assumed they were dating, but he seemed downright offended that I would make such a heinous assumption.

What's the difference?

A guy is with a girl for three years before they officially become boyfriend and girlfriend.

Do you want to know the difference between their friendship and their relationship? Nothing.

I can't follow the logic to it.

Another couple decides to "take a break."

They didn't break up, but in the interest of not "moving too fast," they "take a break," which basically equated to seeing each other less than normal.

I've been in a relationship for four and a half years. There was no "just friends" stage. We weren't "just talking." Yes, we were friends, and we did talk, but this was for a short period before we started dating. It was the courting stage, which involved talking, getting to know her and a dance that was meant to woo her, yet assert my superiority over other males.

And, yes, pretty colors and great plumage helps.

There is a difference between talking and "just talking." Talking is that period of time you spend getting to know the person you want to date. It is not going out without actually calling it "going out." That's "just talking," which is dating without the Facebook status.

Facebook, by the by, is one of the many technological methods of effectively ruining dating as I know it. Facebooking, text messaging and instant messaging… they kill off an essential part of relationships – conversation.

Another friend of mine began "going out" with her brand new boyfriend.

They were "just friends" for three months and "just talking" for two. "Going out" was the next big emotional plateau.

I asked her how often she talked with her boyfriend on the phone. Her next words left me in a state of shock that ended only with a defibrillator.

"Oh, we just text message each other."

She doesn't call him, she just texts him all day and all night. That is not a conversation.

That is carpal tunnel syndrome. She even admits to doing it while driving. A lot of people I know do that… and not all of them type or text well to begin with. Putting those two activities together is not wise on their part.

Text-based conversations are also an ineffective way to break up with someone. My ex-girlfriend broke up with me by copying and pasting some version of the classic "It's not you, it's me" speech into an MSN messenger window.

My only response was "lol."

I then had to check Facebook to confirm it. Sure enough, it said we had ended our relationship. Then I got text messages all night saying "OMG wut happened??"

I just laughed.

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Just gotta have faith

Bethany Frank
Guest Columnist



We have all endured those weeks when we felt our breaking point. We have all surpassed those moments when we held back the tears of frustration and pushed forward.

In today's society it is so difficult to practice faith. Someone is always telling us to give up. Give in. Walk out.

Someone is always encouraging us to throw in the towel and fail.

But we can't. We must find it in ourselves to keep going. We must faith.

Have you ever stood out on a ledge without the fear of falling? Everything in your gut is telling you to turn around, that it isn't safe. But something keeps you there. Something encourages you to hold strong.

That is faith.

Faith that there is something bigger, something more that will hold you up when the rest of the world pushes you down.

It is said faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains, but what about the heart of a college student?

When the pressures of exams, auditions, roommates, money and expectations become too much, who has the strength to stay standing? Who has the strength to keep going, to keep fighting?

Growing up, my mother always introduced me as her little Pollyanna: the girl who finds happiness in everything. But, when you are 8 years old, what is there not to be happy about?

As I am suppressed by the accumulation of weight upon my shoulders, I am no longer the Pollyanna I once was.

It is so hard to find happiness when you feel your world is crumbling around you, but we have to try.

We have to find something to believe in, or we will only find failure.

Faith isn't about believing in something you know will work out.

Faith doesn't have facts or proof. Faith is the gut feeling you have about something, someone.

Faith is living beyond discouragement and finding something deeper. For some, it is faith in someone else. For me, it is faith that someone will surpass her health constraints and her "expiration date" so graciously provided by doctors.

Faith that people will surpass all hardships that come their way.

So often, we find it easy to believe someone else can do something, but we struggle to have that same faith in ourselves.

We find it simple to encourage our friends to succeed in everything they strive for because we know they are amazing. We know they can achieve anything they desire. We know because we have faith.

Everyone needs some aspect of faith in life. But we need faith, not only in others but also in ourselves. We need to succeed.

We need to know we can accomplish anything.

We need to be able to stand out on a ledge and know we won't fall. Not because physics is on our side, but because we have faith.

Faith in something more. Something bigger than you or I. Faith in the impossible.

In a world full of mountains, we all need to search for faith the size of a mustard seed.

A final plea for the 'right' vote

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



Well, this is it.

This is the last article I will write before Election Day.

I'd be lying if I said I was not nervous.

I've talked to some people before who say this election is about us, but it's not.

It is about our children and grandchildren who will reap what we sow in the next several years.

We are about to make one of the biggest decisions of our lives.

Both men and women have the equal right to vote. So let's get out and exercise that right.

As Americans we believe in the saying that is in the Declaration of Independence, "All men are created equal." All people – black or white, rich or poor, young or old, man or-woman – are equal.

We all agree times have changed since the Declaration of Independence was established in 1776, but our rights have remained and our country has continued to be the most prosperous nation. We are a democracy; here we get to vote for our leaders instead of having them assigned to us.

We have two choices for president, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain, two men who have been in the spotlight the last several months and who feel they are capable of being president.

But only one vows to keep our country strong and powerful. I am speaking to you, my fellow students, as an American, not as a conservative. I am begging you to help me put a man in office who will keep America on top, as it has always been.

I think we would all agree that we want America to continue to be a democracy and not become a socialist nation.

If you look closely enough at what Obama is proposing, you will see that his ideas reflect socialism. Socialism is a precursor to communism, and that is not who we are. Please don't be fooled by his smooth talking and his ability to slither his way out of answering a question.

We deserve a leader who will answer what we ask him, and who will come through with his promises. Don't sit and do nothing. Go out and vote for a man who will continue to fight to keep our American values. McCain has a record of saying he will do things and getting them done.

Obama has a record of saying what people want to hear and not coming through. Fact is fact, and experience is experience. We can't take this decision lightly; this is our country's future we are talking about.

Nov. 4 is Election Day. Go vote, and always stay proud to be an American.

Student sees no reason to 'boo' Halloween

Amanda Duncil
Guest Columnist



It's the time of year when kids are beginning to count down the days, eager to receive free candy. People young and old are shopping for just the right costume, and some will spend upwards of $100 just for a single night. It's almost hard to believe that even these days, many people believe that Halloween is considered "devil-worshipping;" however, I fail to see how celebrating the holiday itself falls under the category of glorifying the devil.

Halloween originated from an ancient Celtic celebration called Samhain and was a celebration of the winter. Ancient belief was that on the night of Oct. 31, the barrier between the living and the dead was absent. They feared the dead coming back because they thought they would cause harm in the forms of sickness or diseased crops. Keep in mind this was a time before the germ theory was developed.

One Christian blog post stated that Halloween cannot be accepted as harmless fun because so much vandalism and property destruction is so common; even, as they say, "normally well-behaved children are driven by unseen forces to destructive behaviors."

I can understand how other activities associated with Halloween might be looked down on. After all, it's regarded as the most supernatural night of the year, and some people choose to take advantage of this by participating in occult-like events. The Ouija board, tarot cards and séances are the most common examples of this.

Trick-or-treating is hard to imagine as a devilish activity. Even considering the argument stating the claim of an increase in property damage, vandalism and overall mischief, it's almost hard to imagine a large public event where these things don't happen.

Bad people exist, believe it or not, and if they use Halloween to their destructive advantage, it's definitely not from the holiday itself, but rather their own desire to inflict harm on others.

Yes, Halloween makes it easier to get away with certain things, but it has nothing to do with "unseen forces." Children are generally supervised during trick-or-treating, and if supervised children misbehave, then the parents aren't doing their job. On the other hand, some parents believe their kids are darling little angels when they're not and allow them to run around without care. Then, when their kid gets in trouble, they refuse to believe it was through any fault of their own and look for explanations that place blame away from them and their child.

Dressing up to receive candy has no direct correlation with the devil. People dress up in costume every day for various reasons. Even the act of portraying a demon or ghoul should not be considered devil-worshipping, as it is just make-believe, and is done quite often in theatre and movies.

It's not fair to say Halloween is completely bad because it stems from a pagan religion. As with everything, there are people who will take it to an extreme, but it is not intended to be anything more than innocent fun.

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October 29, 2008

Demons maul Bearkats

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Northwestern State football team celebrated being in second place in the Southland Conference after a 24-16 homecoming win over Sam Houston State.

"It was definitely a great win," senior linebacker Mack Dampier said. "We just wanted to come out because last weekend we let ourselves down a little bit and we came out real high, and it was homecoming so it helped a lot. It was one of the better teams in the conference and it definitely paid off, our hard work this week."

The Demons improved to 5-3, 2-1 in conference play, only a game behind the University of Central Arkansas for the conference lead.

"Every time you get a win in Southland Conference it's nice, and they've got a heck of a football team," head coach Scott Stoker said. "That's a big win for us. We had a great game plan going in, and I thought we did a tremendous job in the secondary, mixing up our zone and man reads."

NSU jumped on the Bearkats early, taking a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter.

Senior running back Byron Lawrence pounded his way into the end zone from 3 and 9 yards out for both scores. Lawrence finished the game with 118 yards on 26 carries and two scores. Lawrence has rushed for over 100 yards in four consecutive games, averaging 153.75 yards in those games.



Photo by Lauren Rachal/The Current Sauce

Senior running back Byron Lawrence (22) rushes past two Sam Houston State defenders in NSU's 24-16 Homecoming win.

"I just had to keep up myself and get mentally prepared and just stay focused," Lawrence said. "The offensive line and the team believe in me, and I just got more focused and stayed with it."

Sam Houston then scored 10 unanswered points. Senior quarterback Rhett Bomar tossed a 47-yard touchdown strike to Chris Lucas, cutting the lead to four.

Junior running back William Griffin found his way into the end zone to give the Demons a comfortable 21-10 lead in the fourth quarter.

Robert Weeks tacked on a 36-yard field goal with just over a minute remaining to seal it for NSU.

Weeks' field goal tied him with Keith Hodnett for the school record for most field goals made in a career with 37.

Weeks needs only two points to become the school's career kick scoring leader, also held by Hodnett. He also needs only nine points to become the school's all-time career scoring leader, held by Tony Taylor who was a tailback for the Demons from 1998-2000.

With the win, the Demons hold Sam Houston from its first conference win of the season. NSU is tied with Stephen F. Austin and Texas State for second in conference standings.

"It's a team win," Stoker said. "We didn't play great in a lot of areas, defensively I thought we did. We do what we do, and we're not going to change. We just try to get better at it each week, and I thought we executed the game plan extremely well."

NSU will travel to San Marcos, Texas to battle the Bobcats in a showdown of second place teams.

The Demons are winless on the road this season, falling to Baylor early in the season and losing to Southeastern on Oct. 18. NSU has now lost 10 consecutive road games.

The last road win for the Demons was a 9-0 victory over Nicholls on Oct. 21, 2006.

"If we can concentrate on our game, I think we'll be fine," Dampier said.

Lawrence said they will have to keep their heads in the game and not lose focus. He said if they stay positive, they will be OK.

Texas State (4-3, 2-1) comes into the game coming off a dominating 62-21 win over Stephen F. Austin. Game time for NSU and Texas State is 3 p.m.

Sam Houston junior linebacker Luke McCall suffered a devastating hit late in the fourth quarter.

Sam Houston officials said we was not seriously injured and was moving extremities as he was carried off the field in an ambulance. He was taken from the field to a local hospital for observation, according to an article on nsudemons.com.

Volleyball team challenged with 'must wins'

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Quick matches are becoming very familiar to head coach Brittany Uffelman and her volleyball squad.

They have gone 3-0 in four straight matches, going 2-2 in that stretch.

NSU hosted the University of Texas at San Antonio Thursday in a conference matchup.

The Lady Demons went to the wire in all three games, but fell 3-0 to the Lady Roadrunners.

"UTSA just beat SFA and Texas State, the top two teams in our conference, so UTSA right now is the best team in the conference," Uffelman said. "We're right there if anyone watched the game tonight. We were point-for-point with the top team in the conference."

Junior outside hitter Yelena Enwere and sophomore outside hitter Taylor Deering led the team in kills with 10 each.

Junior setter Megan Dockery posted 26 assists in the contest.

NSU dropped to 2-7 on the year in conference play.

The UTSA Lady Roadrunners improved to 6-2 after the win.

The Lady Roadrunners are 7-2 after a win over the University of Central Arkansas.

UTSA is the winner of 14 of its last 16 after starting the season losing six of seven matches.

The Lady Demons are struggling due to a lack of depth and injuries that are plaguing key players, Uffelman said.

"I think the healthier we get, we're going to start pulling games off of them," Uffelman said.

"Because we have people playing positions they've never played in their entire lives, and they are just like running around trying to do the best they can. We're falling short. I think the more familiar we get with the positions the more successful we'll be," Uffelman said.

NSU played its second game of a four-game home stand Saturday against last place Texas A&M at Corpus Christi.

Uffelman's squad pounded out three straight set wins to improve to 3-7 in conference, 8-12 overall.

"Those are must wins," Uffelman said before the contest. "Corpus we can beat. We can go 3-0."

Junior outside hitter Markie Robichau paved the way in the win recording a double double with 10 kills and 10 digs.

Enwere smashed 14 kills of her own in the sweep.

The Lady Demons host Nicholls State University Thursday at 7 p.m. and finish the home stand Saturday against Southeastern Louisiana University at 4 p.m.

Upcoming Demon Events

Oct. 30	Volleyball	Nicholls*	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	Soccer	Texas State	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	Football	Texas State	3 p.m.
Nov. 1	Volleyball	SELA*	4 p.m.
Nov. 2	Soccer	UTSA	1 p.m.

*denotes home game

Conference competiition heats up

Leslie Jordan
Sauce Reporter

The Lady Demons soccer team battled two conference competitors last weekend on the Demon Soccer Complex.

The Lady Demons took on Sam Houston State to earn another Southland Conference win, with a shutout 4-0 heartbreaker over the Lady Bearkats and tied in double overtime against Stephen F. Austin's Lady Jacks.

The NSU Lady Demons ended the weekend with a season record of 9-6-2 and a conference record of 4-2-1.

The Lady Demons faced their sixth conference competitor, Sam Houston State, Friday.

The Lady Demons turned up the heat scoring two goals in the first half and leaving the Lady Bearkats empty handed.

In the second half, they came back hard with two more goals to finalize their win.

Senior forward Hannah Casey, junior forward Kayce Schultz and freshman forward Kayla King all knocked in goals to put NSU on the board.

King put NSU on the board with a goal from 10 yards out on the right side of the box.

Casey hit a floater into the high left corner of the goal from 20 yards out on a pass from Sarah Sadler to take NSU to a 2-0 lead into the half.

Schultz, team high scorer for the season, put one in for the third goal.

With less than four minutes left in the game, sophomore middle forward April Madden knocked in the final goal to notch the win over Sam Houston.

Madden notched the victory not only over Sam Houston State, but also over her older sister Monica Madden, senior defender for Sam Houston.

"Everyone went into the Sam Houston game with a tremendous amount of energy that played a huge reason we were able to come out with a win," freshman middle forward Rachel O'Steen said. "On Sunday, we all wanted to come together for the seniors last home game. It was tough with the double overtimes, but we all just wanted to stick it out. The tie was not what we were hoping for but now we're focusing on stepping up to finish conference play strong and ensure a tournament berth."

After the Lady Demons' strong win over Sam Houston State, the Northwestern State soccer team set to face rival Stephen F. Austin on Sunday.

The game held up to be a challenging and aggressive one with 30 fouls between the two rival teams.

After a scoreless tie with SFA, NSU is tied for third in conference play with the University of Texas at San Antonio, SFA and Texas State.

The Lady Demons will close out the regular season with two away games this week at Texas State on Friday and UTSA on Sunday.

The conference tournament gets underway Nov. 6 in Lake Charles.



Photo by Lauren Rachal/The Current Sauce

Seniors Amanda Vines, Grabrielle Asayag, Hannah Casey, Bobbie Hayes, Ashley Millhouse and Manette Keller tied Stephen F. Austin 0-0 in their last game at the Demon Soccer Complex. They were recognized before the game for Senior Day.



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This week

Vegas Night

The Student Activities Board hosts a night of fun and prizes.

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Remember, Remember...

Columnists pay tribute to Guy Fawkes Day.

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Fit to be tied

Demon football team is tied for No. 1 spot in Southland Conference.

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Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Weather

Wednesday 84°/61°

Thursday 82/51°

Friday 76°/43°

Saturday 79°/42°

Sunday 78°/51°

Monday 71°/46°

Tuesday 71°/39°

Obama elected

Democratic candidate on top after 21 months

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

The results are in, and it looks like Sen. Barack Obama is trading in that title for president.

Obama will step in as the country's 44th president and its first black president. His victory Tuesday night marked the end of a 21-month presidential campaign season – the longest in U.S. history.

"This is a history-making election," vocal music performance major Garrison Moore said yesterday.

National polls showed Obama with an 8-point lead over McCain going into the election, according to a cnn.com article.

CNN projected that Obama will receive the needed electoral votes to pass the 270-vote bottom line and secure the win. He is projected to win California, Ohio, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and Virginia, a state that hasn't voted for a democratic president since 1964, according to a cnn.com article late last night.

"I thought he would win, but not by so much," NSU alum Andrew Stacy said.

The polls and media were not the only ones predicting Obama's victory. Many NSU students gave the same guess.

Stephen Varice, a freshman business management major, said on Election Day that he thought Obama would win, which was also the outcome he wanted.

"I expect the best from him [Obama]," Varice said even before he voted yesterday.

Derrick Houston, a junior math education major who voted absentee, agreed with Varice in his choice for president.

"I feel like he's the best candidate, what he stands for," Houston said yesterday. "It's time for a change."

Houston also said he preferred Obama's running mate over McCain's.

"She's too controversial to me," Houston said about Gov. Sarah Palin.

Moore also predicted Obama as the winner Tuesday.

"I feel like the U.S. will be voting for him," Moore said.

Moore voted absentee for the election.

Dianté Turner, a junior business administration major, said Tuesday afternoon that he was confident Obama would win.

"Not only is it time, but it's the place [for Obama]," Turner said.

He said he believes Obama is ready to lead the country.

As a John McCain supporter, Matt May said he was initially upset that McCain lost, but he didn't stay that way.

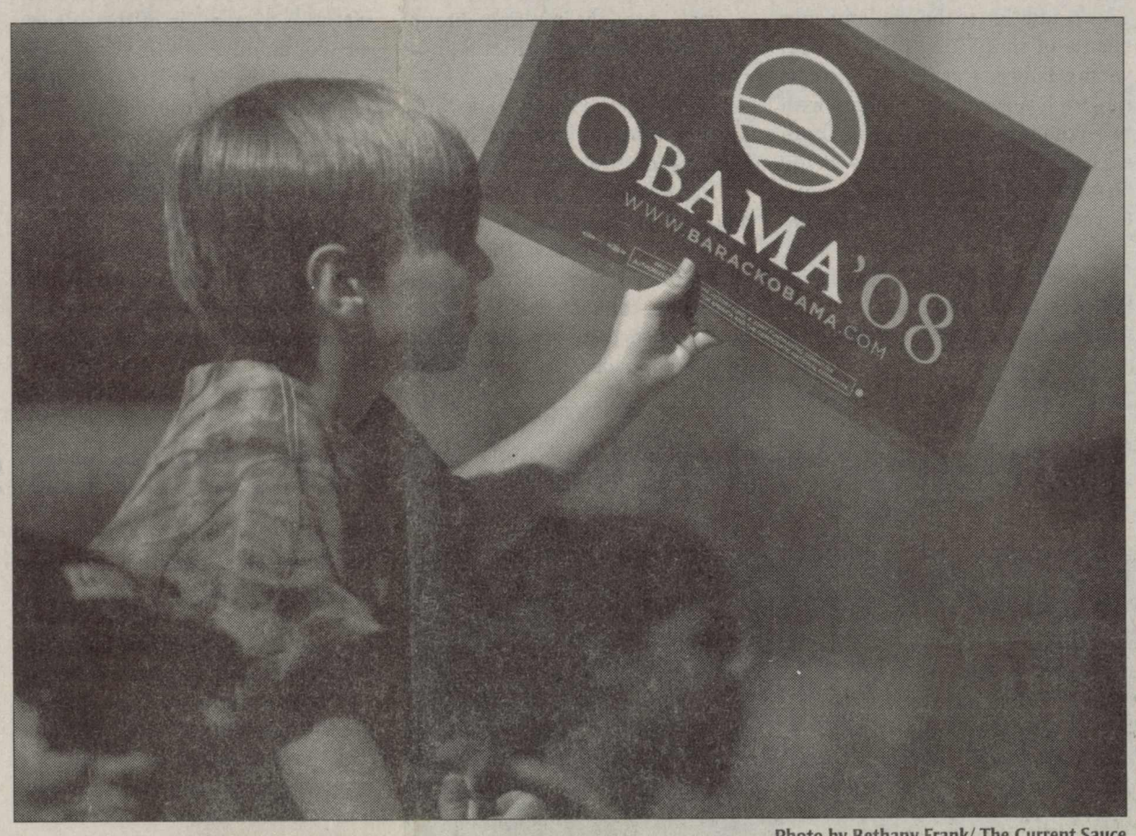


Photo by Bethany Frank/ The Current Sauce

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama is on the verge of reaching the 270 electoral votes needed to become the next president of the United States. Several NSU students and community members attended a rally in support of the candidate that was held on campus Oct.17 at Prather Coliseum.

"It didn't take long to get over that," said May, a junior hospitality, management and tourism major. "Since I am an American, I'm going to do my best to support our president."

Sophomore social work major Adris Moffett focused more on the reasons behind the victor rather than the candidate himself.

"I just hope it's fair," Moffett said about either candidate winning. "I hope race doesn't play a part in it."

Serena Holliday, a senior social work major, said yesterday afternoon that she expected Obama to win. Although Holliday couldn't say for sure Tuesday who would be elected president, she did expect a radical change to come as a result of either candidate.

"The next two years will be really important," Holliday said. "Whoever wins, it's going to be historic."

She also expected the 44th president to have to overcome the big hurdle that is the country's current financial slump.

"Whoever wins will have a monkey on their back with the economy," Holliday said.

Sophomore art major Grayce Raley wasn't gung-ho about Obama on Tuesday.

Raley said she figured Obama would win but said she would prefer the Green Party candidate Cynthia McKinney for president.

"I don't mind [if Obama wins]," Raley said. "He'd make a decent president."

She did, however, see a need for the U.S. to have a new president.

"It really is time for us to get some fresh blood in there," Raley said. "It's going to be a change whoever wins."

Now that the 21-month presidential campaign is over, students are looking to what is to come.

Varice said on Election Day that he thinks everything will calm down once the elections are over.

Houston's prediction was the opposite, though. Houston said he expected chaos to be the order of the day Wednesday.

Andrew Stacy said he expects a little bit of everything.

"We [U.S. citizens] have been polarized for a while now, so I don't expect it all to go away instantly," Stacy said. "I am expecting to see people skipping in the streets and people grumbling and moping."

Turner said he doesn't know what to expect on Wednesday other than an exciting day, but he does not want this to divide the U.S.

"We need to unite as a country no matter the outcome," Turner said.

Stacy said the public will eventually find a way to come together.

"Though we are polarized now, we are all Americans, and I earnestly believe that we are going to work together to fix our problems," Stacy said. "It is what we do, coming together in the face of our great obstacles."

With the polls closing across the country, NSU students are preparing to leave the long-winded campaign season behind.

Holliday said she was ready for all the "election stuff" to be over, and she wasn't the only one.

Stacy said he is glad to be able to leave behind the "red vs. blue" mindset, but he is still glad he voted.

"I am glad that I was a part of history, and for the first time in a good while I am optimistic about the hands that run the government – ours," Stacy said.

Investigation results in 'stringent' sanctions

David Royal
News Editor

After completing its initial investigation on Friday, the Internal Board of Directors for Kappa Sigma Fraternity issued sanctions to NSU's Theta-Mu chapter as punishment for the chapter's actions at its off-campus "slave auction" on Oct. 15.

The Internal Board of Directors for Kappa Sigma Fraternity assessed that NSU's chapter did in fact violate the Fraternity's Code of Ethics.

The fraternity's board unanimously voted to place sanctions, according to its news release published Oct. 30.

The news release said these sanctions include having the fraternity receive sensitivity training from a professional facilitator, undergo a membership review and write apology letters to the NSU student body and Natchitoches community.

After receiving the Internal Board of Directors' judgment, Dean of Students Chris Maggio said NSU officials decided to support their choice to sanction just as they had originally planned.

Although he still did not wish to elaborate on the specific happenings at the investigated event, Maggio said he believed the Internal Board of Directors made its decision to impose disciplinary action because the "slave auction" was racially insensitive.

It is not uncommon for fraternities and sororities to host auctions as a fundraising tool or social event, but members of the Theta-Mu chapter "took their auction too far," Maggio explained.

Maggio said he hopes the student body understands that the Internal Board of Directors thoroughly addressed every issue and problem facing the local chapter and that the sanctions are not mild.

"Everyone in the fraternity and sorority world knows that these sanctions are a serious issue," Maggio said. "They know that a membership review is completely undesirable."

The membership review will consist of Kappa Sigma Fraternity sending their own investigators to NSU to personally interview each member of the Theta-Mu chapter, Maggio said.

Depending on what the national headquarters finds, the extensive investigation could result in further punishment for individual members.

The facilitator who is brought in for sensitivity training will be highly qualified and will help teach the members of the fraternity how to address diversity issues, Maggio said.

Maggio explained that both the sensitivity training and membership reviews will begin some time this semester and should be completed sometime next semester.

The only aspect that still needs to be addressed is ensuring that the sessions and reviews do not interfere with the students' final exams.

The apology letters from the fraternity are forthcoming, Maggio added.

Steve Horton, Kappa Sigma's faculty adviser, said he is pleased with the manner in which the investigation was conducted and with its end result.

"I'm glad that everyone had a chance to express their concerns and that it wasn't just one-sided," Horton said. "It wasn't like a trial."

Horton added that he does not have a problem with the sanctions that have been placed.

"I feel like the sanctions were stringent, but in the long run it will allow our fraternity to grow," Horton said.

Because the investigation is complete, Maggio said NSU will start to get back to normal.

"We can now start the healing process," Maggio said.

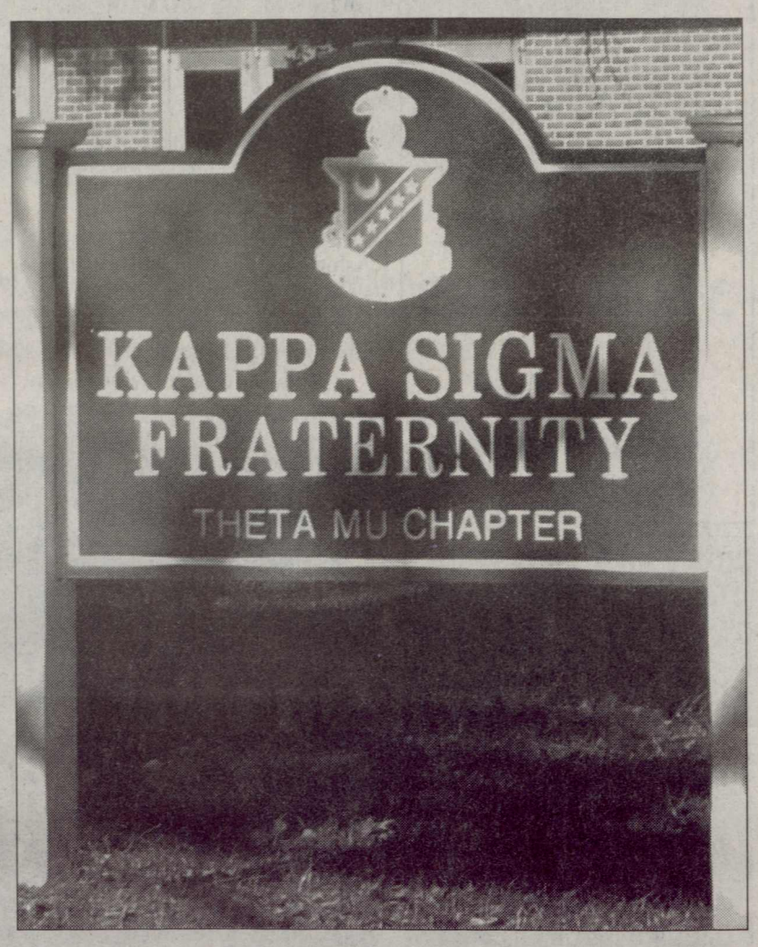
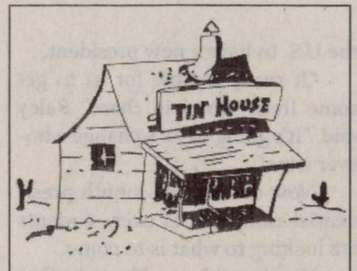


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

NSU's Theta-Mu chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity will begin fulfilling the requirements underlined by the newly implemented sanctions this semester, Dean of Students Chris Maggio said.

David Royal
News Editor
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November 5, 2008

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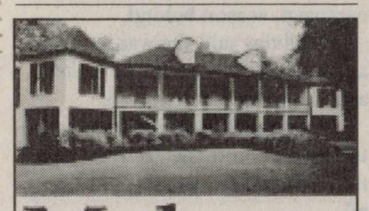
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The Argus, NSU's award-winning art and literary magazine, is currently accepting submissions for this year's issue. The Argus will consider poetry, fiction and photography submissions for publication. For more information, contact the staff at nsuargus@gmail.com or search for the NSULA Argus Facebook group.

Alleged shoplifters suspected of stealing 10 textbooks

David Royal
News Editor

Two suspects arrested Oct. 28 for shoplifting at NSU's University Bookstore have posted bail and are awaiting further legal action.

Both suspects were arrested after police received a tip from the University Bookstore and found textbooks still wrapped in its original plastic in one of the suspects' cars. The University Bookstore is located on the first floor of the Friedman Student Union.

In addition to the misdemeanor charge of shoplifting filed by University Police, Det. Doug Prescott said each suspect was charged with two counts of shoplifting for both alleged actions taking place at the Demon Bookstore and Campus Corner – two other NSU textbook merchants.

Prescott said the University Police will be investigating only the charge of shoplifting that took place on campus.

Angie McAfee, assistant manager at the University Bookstore, said she was one of the first to realize what the two suspects were doing. McAfee explained that the two suspects were stealing textbooks from one of the three local bookstores and would then sell them back to another one of the other two bookstores for a profit.

"I figured out that something wasn't quite right after the second or third book," McAfee said.

She said it seemed suspicious that the suspect, within only about a week, brought multiple brand-new textbooks that were still in the wrapper to sell to the store.

Between the three bookstores, McAfee said she believes 10 textbooks – each worth at least $100 – were stolen and transferred amongst the businesses.

Before informing the police, McAfee said she called Campus Corner to confirm that the books the suspects had brought in that day were in fact missing from their store.

Because one of the suspects is a student at NSU, he will have to go through the university's judicial process, governed by Dean of Students Chris Maggio.

According to the 2008-2009 NSU Student Handbook, the student suspected of shoplifting could undergo an administrative hearing in which the committee assigned to address the case would examine different issues.

These could include whether or not the accused student used his status as a member of the university community to assist in the execution of the offense. An example of this may be the use of his student I.D. card.

The accused student could face expulsion from the university, according to the handbook.

Maggio said he cannot speak concerning the student's circumstance because it would violate the law and infringe upon the student's rights.

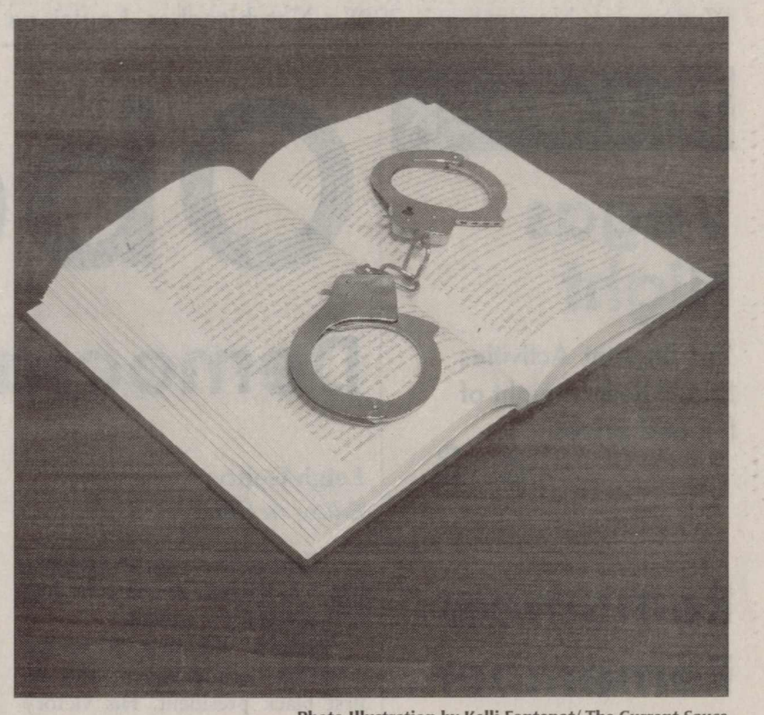


Photo Illustration by Kelli Fontenot/ The Current Sauce
In addition to criminal charges, the university's judicial process will evaluate one of the suspects, who is an NSU student.

Students' election celebrations spark police interest

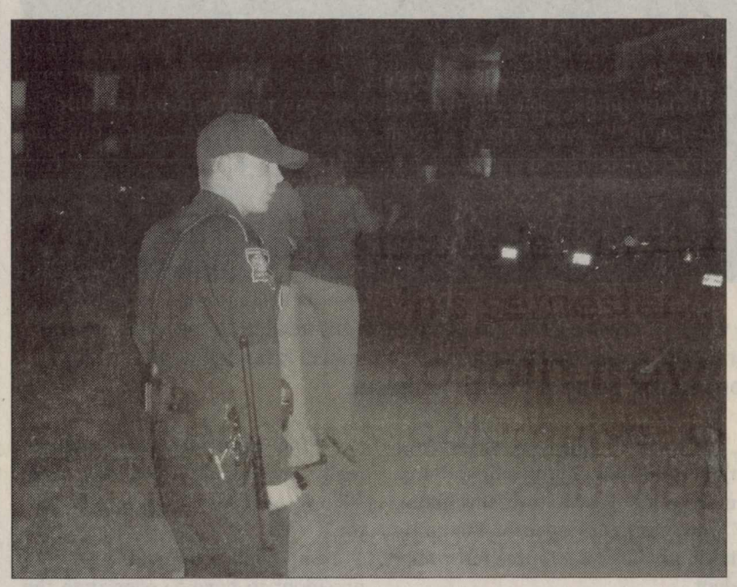


Photo by Bethany Frank/ The Current Sauce
An officer for the University Police responds to a noise complaint at the University Columns Tuesday night.

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor

University Police responded to a fire alarm and noise complaints at on-campus residence halls following the announcement of Sen. Barack Obama's victory last night.

Just a few minutes after Obama was elected president, students could be seen driving around campus, hanging out of their car windows and screaming for joy that their candidate had won.

Students were celebrating at University Place when someone tripped a fire alarm in one of the buildings.

NSU police showed up and cleared the building with help from the Natchitoches Fire Department Tuesday night.

The officer at the scene, Sidney Jacobs, confirmed that there was no fire and that only one alarm had been pulled.

Despite being forced outside, the spirits of NSU students were still riding high.

"The first black president? This is awesome," Tyler Matthews, a resident of University Place, said.

Meanwhile, at University Columns, a large gathering of students in the road forced NSU police to respond to a "noise complaint," according to the NSU police blotter.

Students gathered outside to celebrate Obama's new position as president-elect, cheering and shouting.

As police were trying to clear the road and get students settled down, a group of them re-convened in the street and began shouting "Hey! Hey! Hey!"

After the display, one student was led away – but not arrested – by police.

Amid protests, officers began patrolling the grounds, some displaying pepper spray, trying to get students back inside their apartments.

Sgt. David Dale of University Police, one of the officers at the scene, remarked that the priority was to try and get students in their apartments without making arrests.

Columns resident Malcolm Smoot was excited about the outcome of the election, but not about his fellow students' behavior.

"I just feel like the reaction to his winning was good at first, but now it's getting ridiculous," Smoot said.

The party at the Columns ended at the same time as the investigation at University Place concerning the triggered fire alarm.

KNWD ventures into new frontier with news magazine

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

KNWD 91.7 FM has added a new radio show to its weekly schedule – one that is the first of its kind to air at NSU.

Preparation has kept KNWD staff members busy and on edge for the Friday premiere at noon.

"It's exciting to work on this new show and to help put it all together," KNWD news director Kelly Miller said. "It's new to the station and to the school, so hopefully students will tune in and get more involved with KNWD."

Miller, a junior journalism major, said the show will feature news stories on campus and local news pertaining to students.

KNWD practicum student Ashley Millhouse will host the show while other students serve as reporters in the field covering the latest news as it happens.

Students of any major are encouraged to get involved with this new show.

The idea for the show came from the radio station adviser, journalism professor Hesham Mesbah.

Mesbah, a native of Egypt, arrived at NSU this summer from Kuwait and developed the idea from his background in television. He said the new format is important to the professionalism of the radio station.

"I hope it will eventually grow and evolve into a more professional atmosphere for our students and as a community service feature," Mesbah said. "It is a way to get more students involved and a chance to learn more about the broadcast field."

The show will also feature stories that spark human interest.

Mesbah said the show will take a new approach to presenting the flesh and blood of the campus.

"Each student has their own story to tell, and we should share the human side along with the news," Mesbah said. "I hope students will react and call in with their own ideas for stories and give us a better idea of what they want to hear."

The show, which has no official name, will air weekly on KNWD 91.7 FM.

The station's general manager Richelle Stephens, a junior journalism major, has high hopes for the show as not only an entertainment feature, but also as an educational device that will provide new ways of learning for students.

"I believe that the news magazine will make a wonderful learning experience for not only the radio news writing class but for the KNWD staff too." Stephens said.

"As general manager, I hope to redefine KNWD's role within the department from extracurricular activity to a learning lab where we work with a class to produce something that professional radio news reporters do on a daily basis. I believe that my vision is headed in the right direction."



Photo by Amanda Crane/ The Current Sauce
KNWD news director Kelly Miller and journalism professor Hesham Mesbah play a large role in the organization of the news magazine. The new radio show, which will air Fridays at noon on KNWD 91.7 FM, will consist of stories occuring on and off campus.

Just 3 issues left of the *Sauce* this semester...
So join now!
Reporters, columnists, cartoonists, photographers and videographers are always welcome.
Contact us at thecurrentsauce@gmail.com or 318.357.5381.
The Current Sauce staff holds meetings Mondays at 5 p.m. in 227 Kyser Hall.

Police Blotter

11/4

10:04 pm - Subject complains about noise level at University Columns, caused by the election results.

**The Current Sauce collects the police blotter each week from the campus police department.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
lgentry001@student.nsula.edu
November 5, 2008

YouTube users share unique views

Students, organizations upload serious videos, silly skits

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Some NSU students and on-campus groups are realizing the possibilities provided by technology and YouTube.com.

YouTube is home to millions of videos – from episodes of beloved '90s cartoons to up-to-the-minute election coverage – posted from locations all over the world, including Natchitoches.

While many NSU students use YouTube as a tool for finding music videos and episodes of their favorite TV shows, some students have uploaded their own videos of silly skits to the site.

Others use the site as a way of communicating with their friends and family members or sharing clever parodies of YouTube classics.

The addictive site attracts millions of people every day, and some of these videos are viewed by hundreds of Internet users.

YouTube isn't reserved for social networking and shows like "Ask A Ninja," though.

Student Government Association president Cody Bourque and vice president Mark Daniels posted a campaign slideshow to YouTube last semester while vying for their current positions.

NSU Exposed, the popular video series on Facebook highlighting on-campus events and fashion flaws, now makes its episodes available on YouTube.

Tyran Cosey, a senior business administration and CIS major, co-hosts the program along with graphic communications major Rickey Henry and NSU alumnus Kamal Dorsey.

The show, which comes equipped with a new theme song this semester, has attracted more than 1,600 fans on Facebook and has spread to other social networking Web sites.

A few organizations at Northwestern have recognized the impact YouTube can have as well.

One channel, Mcnsu, provides Internet users with footage of the Spirit of Northwestern Marching band performances.

Other YouTube directors have followed suit, posting videos of their favorite NSU marching shows, drumline cadences and symphony performances.

Some students use the site to promote on-campus organizations.

Sarah Sutton, 21, came to NSU to study journalism, but ended up being one step closer to her dream career.

Sutton films videos in her spare time and serves as the video director for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at NSU, using YouTube to share the BCM's message with the world.

Sutton plans to go to film school after she graduates next year.

In high school, she watched her best friends turn their hobby – making silly short movies – into a filming business.

Sutton soon acquired a camera and started filming videos of her own.

Her YouTube channel, Misayhara, shows several examples of her work, including a real-life version of the Nintendo game MarioKart and interpretations of "Lord of the Rings" and "The Wizard of Oz" with a religious twist.

Sutton said a "Dr. Who" spin-off is the only non-BCM video on her YouTube channel thus far, but she has plans to include more of her personal work in the future.

"Eventually, there are going to be trailers and full movies for my 'College Students Fighting Pure Evil' trilogy," Sutton said.

Sutton filmed the action-packed trilogy with a few friends and is currently working on the post-production editing.

The team used a high quality video camera to record the scenes. Sutton pointed out that she thinks proper software, microphone and editing programs matter more than the camera.

Some YouTube video bloggers post their videos without making any edits, but most use some form of software. Sutton said she uses iMovie when she's on a Mac and combines Windows Movie Maker and Pinnacle when she uses a PC.

She said she thinks iMovie is easier to work with, but that all three programs produce similar results.

Sutton's aspirations go beyond her YouTube experience. She said she hopes to write screenplays and start up a Christian film company of her own someday.

Like the BCM, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training located on campus also uses YouTube to share its message.

The NCPTT posts short video clips of a newscast, "Preservation Today," to raise awareness of environmental preservation practices and educate professionals in the industry.

Nationally, YouTube has been a means of informing the public about many different aspects of this year's presidential election.

YouTube launched a "Video Your Vote" feature in honor of the presidential election, encouraging videographers to upload footage of their voting experiences.

Viewers can watch the debates and wash them down with a comedic green-screen representation of Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain competing against each other in a heavily edited "dance-off."

In the end, it doesn't really matter whether a user logs on to watch a video of a panda sneezing. A link in the sidebar may lead to a more insightful video. YouTube has crossed boundaries, linking the serious with the silly in a way few other Web sites could.

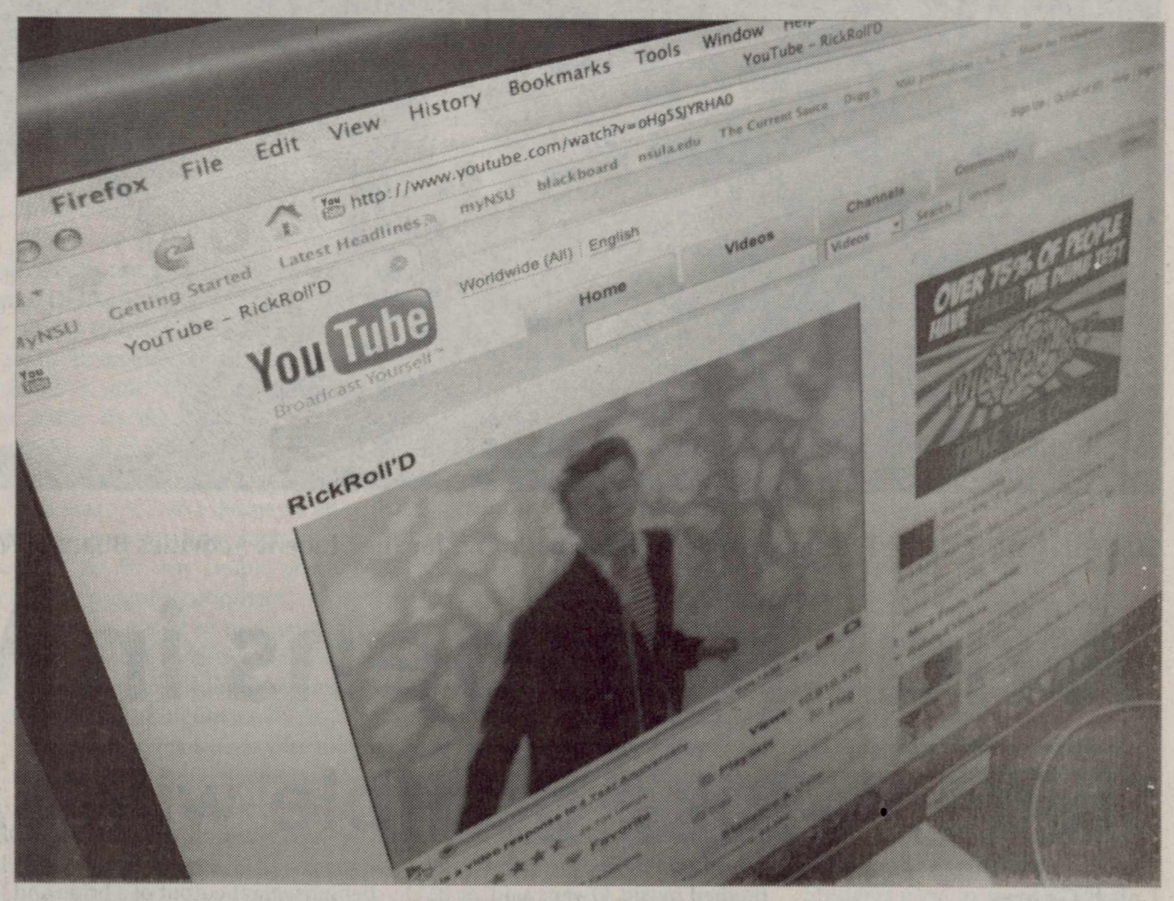


Photo Illustration by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Students use YouTube for various reasons, including entertainment and social networking.

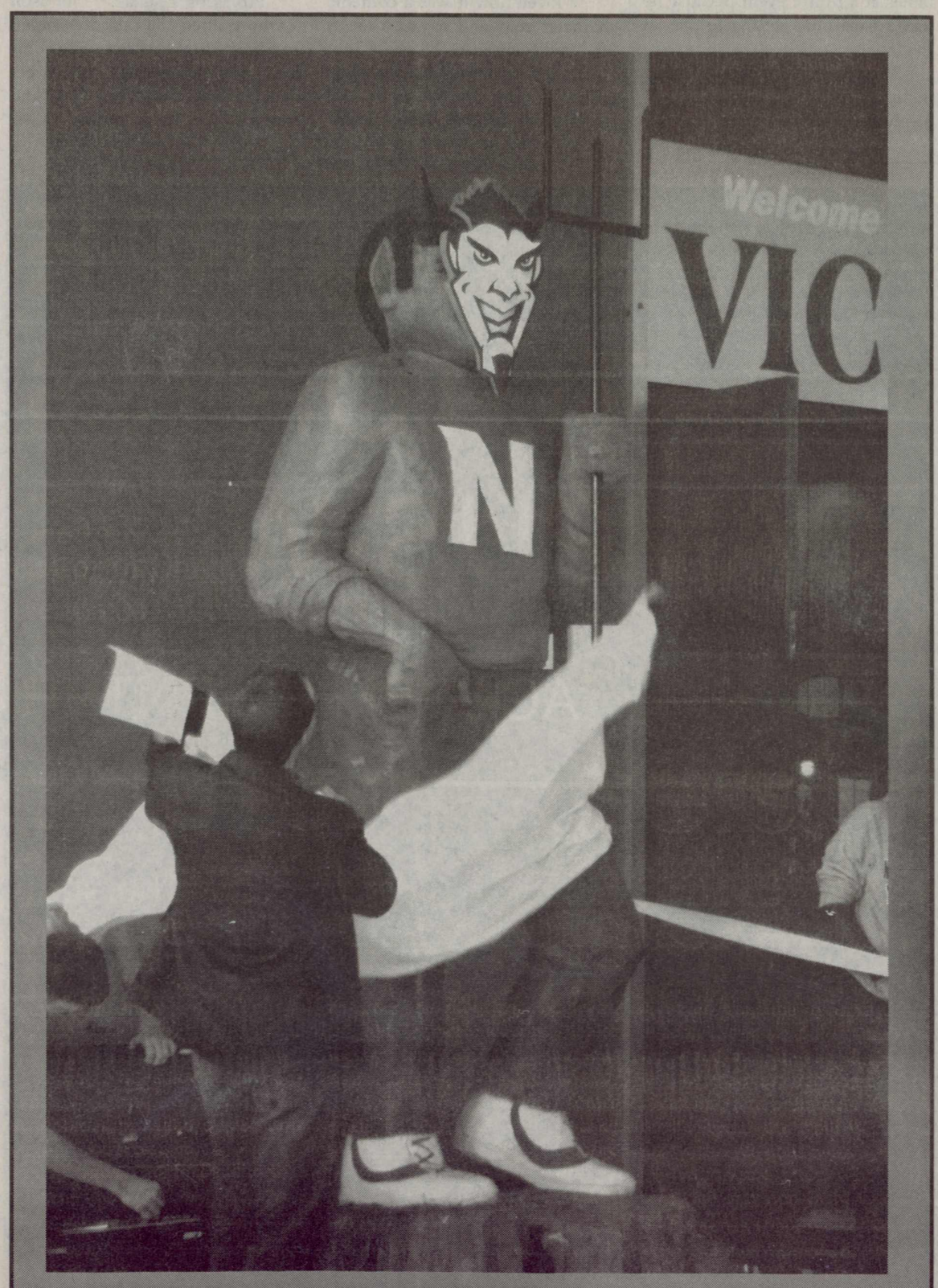


Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

The NSU athletic department reveals Vic's new face in the Friedman Student Union lobby. Vic the Demon donned a mask for Halloween to show off the new logo that was chosen last semester. Cheerleaders joined the celebration, and speakers included assistant athletic director Will Broussard and Demon football defensive coordinator Brad Laird, who encouraged students to support NSU athletics.



Photos by Chris Taylor/The Current Sauce

Above: West Monroe High School drum majors accept their Grand Champion Band award at the 2008 marching contest, hosted Nov.1 in Turpin Stadium by the Spirit of Northwestern marching band. Below: A trombone soloist performs at the marching contest, which drew students from nearly 30 high schools to the NSU campus.



Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
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November 5, 2008



Photo by Leigh Gentry/The Current Sauce

Students gather in the Friedman Student Union ballroom for the Student Activities Board's "Vegas Night" Tuesday.

What happens in Vegas

Students take gamble with SAB event

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

NSU students got to play their hand at poker – Texas Hold 'Em, blackjack and roulette, to be exact – last night as the Student Activities Board hosted "Vegas Night" free of charge in the Friedman Student Union ballroom.

Devin Owens, executive representative at large for SAB, was in charge of planning the event along with the help of the 10 "reps at large," who have been planning the event since the summer.

Vegas Night was a spin-off of last year's "Casino Night," and Owens said SAB just wanted to add to the event. Tuesday night's event included the same games as Casino Night, but they added Vegas-themed music, Owens said.

SAB has been limited to one event per semester due to the organization's minimized budget, and this was SAB's event for the fall, Owens said. The budget was used to cover the costs of decorations, advertising and props such as poker chips.

"We're operating on a little smaller budget, so we're making some improvisations," Owens said.

Students had the chance to win door prizes while they gambled away their free chips last night. Three prizes came from SAB's budget, but Chili's and the NSU Alumni Association also donated prizes for the event.

To add to the Vegas theme, SAB offered a "wedding chapel" station where students could pose behind a giant cutout of a bride and groom. Representative at Large Genny Broggi made the cutout and was in charge of the event's decorations. Broggi also worked as a poker dealer during the night.

Owens said he was impressed by the number of people lined up at the door as Vegas Night began.

Senior social work major Joshua Docter said he came to Vegas Night to have fun and take a shot at winning.

Although he lost all his chips to the Texas Hold 'Em and roulette tables, he said he won the experience of hanging out with friends.

Docter, an avid Texas Hold 'Em player, said he enjoyed the Vegas theme and would come back to another such event. He said he heard about the event through Sarah Timmons, a friend on SAB.

Representative at large Timmons said the turnout was better than she expected, which she attributed to the amount of preparation that went into making the event a reality.

"It's really organized," junior biology major Timmons said. "You come to a lot of events, and they're not organized."

Junior Niko Peters, a physical education and hospitality, management and tourism double-major, said he also liked the theme but would recommend having more tables at a future event because he had a hard time getting to play at the tables.

Peters's game of choice for the night was blackjack, which he said he always plays at casinos.

NSU production of 'Romeo & Juliet' sticks to the script

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

NSU's recent production of "Romeo and Juliet" gave junior theatre major Courtney Murphy a rather different casting experience.

It's a well-known fact that in Shakespeare's time, all parts were played by male actors.

Co-directors Pia Wyatt and senior theatre major Ryan Hazelbaker decided to cast male actors as male characters and female actors as female characters in their version of the play, with a few exceptions.

Murphy had the chance to play Benvolio, which is typically reserved for a male actor.

"It was exciting to be able to reverse that role," Murphy said.

Murphy could have easily turned down this part, but instead she made the best of it. In the end, she said the experience was worth it.

"It was so much fun," Murphy said.

Wyatt and Hazelbaker chose a traditional interpretation of Shakespeare's famous script without making many changes.

Seniors Donald Jones Jr. and Rebecca Russell played Romeo and Juliet. Both talented actors have participated in many theatre and dance productions at NSU, including "CATS" and the annual Christmas Gala.

Each member of the cast seemed thoroughly invested in portraying their characters.

Senior journalism and theatre major Annie Gaarder said she had a great time playing the nurse.

"I loved how it was a comedic character role, and it was a lot of fun," said Gaarder.

In one of her favorite scenes, Gaarder makes fun of Romeo and tells him off with help from Benvolio (Murphy) and Mercutio (theatre major Casey Barrett).

Murphy's favorite scene was the one in which she and Mercutio try to convince Romeo to go to the Capulet party. She said it was fun to work alongside Jones and Barrett.

The cast performed two matinees for a group of more than 1,700 middle and high school students on Thursday and Friday.

Approximately 1,134 people showed up to watch the play in the A. A. Fredericks Auditorium over a span of four nights, according to ticket information.

Freshman vocal education major Jessica Whitlock went to see "Romeo and Juliet" one night because it was required for her Fine Arts class.

Though Whitlock said she didn't want to be there at first, she said she ended up having a great time.

Whitlock even said she'd encourage her friends to see the production.

"I want them to enjoy this experience just like I did," Whitlock said.

Freshman music education major Kirbye Adkins, on the other hand, went to the production because she is a fan of Shakespeare's classic work.

"I love 'Romeo and Juliet,'" Adkins said. "It's kind of cool. It has a great storyline. I love the moderate humor."

The theatre department's next production, "My Children! My Africa!" will focus on the tension surrounding apartheid in South Africa.

Professor Michael J. Johnson – who trained the cast of "Romeo and Juliet" in the arts of stage combat and swordfighting – will direct the play, which runs Nov. 12-15 and Nov. 18-21 in Theatre West.

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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu
November 5, 2008

Half the Battle:
Address to novelists

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



We, as a college that heavily promotes the liberal arts, have failed our students.

We are wont to believe that we churn out great writers and artists. I believe we must re-evaluate ourselves. And I base this entire opinion on one thing.

Bathroom walls.

Students, have we sunk so low that we resort to, excuse the pun, bathroom language to humor us?

We are a society that produced comic geniuses like Demitri Martin and Steven Wright, yet some people feel crudely-drawn "boobies" are comedy gold?

What does it say about us when swear words make us giggle uncontrollably?

See? Just the thought of a giant "F-word" makes you giggle.

Also, why are there so many guys that are coming out of the proverbial closet and into an actual stall?

They even seem eager to meet with others and plan their meetings on the stall walls, too. In an effort to see what they were meeting about, I was in the bathroom waiting for one to start, but, strangely, no one showed up.

Stranger still, a Google search for "bathroom meetings" only resulted in several pages of unhelpful information.

There are some decent writers among our school bathroomgoers.

Poets and theologians have made their presence felt in our bathrooms, but are often dismissed by debaters skilled in the art of questioning one's sexual orientation.

And I will have you know, anonymous writer, that my mother is a saint, and there is no way you fathered me.

What we need is to put the writing skills we learned in high school English to good use. Use a comma every once in a while. That's all I'm asking for.

Conjugate your verbs. Take an art class or two. Talk nicely to others.

You have the resources here at NSU. Use them to become better bathroom vandals.

Make me want to come back and read your words of wisdom again.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site: www.thecurrentsauce.com

This week's columnists are disguised in recognition of Guy Fawkes Day, which is celebrated on November 5.

Think above the belt

Bethany Frank
Guest Columnist



Screw. Get laid. Bone. Have relations. Do the deed. Seal the deal. Horizontal mambo. Twitting. Doing the nasty. Nail. Bang. Rocking the boat. Bumping uglies. All terms encouraged by pop culture to demean the sanctity of sex.

While people might be animals, that is not the entirety of our being. Unlike animals, people hold the ability to reason and have true thought. It should be assumed that students would want to exercise this ability during their collegiate career, but instead, some choose to exercise their animal instincts.

Sex is more than a desire for an individual to scratch an inch. Sex shouldn't be the way people prove their love to significant others.

Sex is the result of passionate, undying love between two people. Sex should be something beautiful and glorified, but it's not.

Society has made sex out to be a game with a prize. Society has transformed both the male and female form into sexual objects highlighting a sexual desire.

It is depicted in the media that women should wear next to nothing with all their goodies hanging out for all the men to see. It is depicted that unless they demean themselves, no man will desire them.

But do you really want a man who wants you only for your body, and how you could satisfy his sexual needs?

According to Fortune Magazine, porn earnings are estimated at $10 billion to $14 billion a year in the U.S.

Sex might sell, but that is because men and women choose to allow themselves to be held susceptible to that type of demeaning advertising.

Levi Strauss makes amazing jeans. They have survived the tortures of childhood games, Thanksgiving football and so much more. It should be assumed that their logo alone could sell their product.

But it doesn't. Rather, they have a young couple undress themselves in order to swim in their underpants for the first time together. The message? Trust. Trust each other, trust the jeans.

TAG body spray provides the façade that women will go through extremes to jump the bones of any man who dares to spray.

The infamous car commercials using beautiful women to do the job it should be assumed the car could do itself should never be forgotten. Kate Walsh depicts the essence of car commercials in the 2008 Cadillac CTS ad.

The true question is no longer if the car itself with all its gadgets is the reason you buy it, but rather "when you turn your car on, does it return the favor?"

Men and women believe it is OK to be used as sex objects. Students believe it appropriate to go and have hot, steamy one-night stands with whoever buys them a drink at the club.

The result of this behavior? Some of the highest STD statistics in the state. Natchitoches Parish is ranked first in the state in chlamydia cases, most common in women ages 15-24, according to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

Natchitoches is ranked second to Caddo Parish in gonorrhea cases with the highest rates occurring in black males between the ages of 15 and 24, according to LDHH.

Natchitoches is ranked 20th in the state in primary and secondary syphilis cases occurring among individuals between the ages of 20 and 24.

It is great that Natchitoches receives first in something, but should it really be STDs? As a campus community, is that something we should be proud of? Or perhaps, is it something we should strive to fix?

As long as students continue to allow the media to dictate their sexual lives, STDs will continue to flourish in the community, and morality will continue to suffer.

Students need to stop thinking with something other than their brain and strive to become more intelligent and get out in the world rather than get into someone's pants.

One last hurrah

Devon Drake
Web Editor



Earlier this week, I scheduled classes for my final semester at NSU: two capstones, a mid-level science and an elective.

While planning out my schedule, I ran into a problem altogether new to me.

I've taken every class available for my major.

For once in my college career, I'm actually able to choose what elective I want to take.

For the past few years, I've taken a myriad of classes from the CIS department, ventured out into my mandatory business classes and used my three years in band to take care of my electives.

Now, I get to choose an elective. Maybe selecting an optional class isn't a major deal, but it has me thinking about the future.

In the next few months, I have to make several major life decisions.

Will I go to graduate school?

Will I go directly to work?

Based on those two decisions, where will I go?

I have some reasonable job prospects and some ideas of graduate schools to consider, but I have no idea which job I will take or if I want to apply with other companies.

I don't normally fret over major decisions, but this is, by far, the most substantial decision I've been faced with thus far.

I've discussed the idea of what comes after graduation with several of my friends, though that conversation usually ends with me feeling worse than before.

The majority of my friends fall into two categories: those who share my fears and those who apparently have their entire lives planned out.

My friends who share my fear only compound what I'm afraid of, since most of them are asking me what to do with the rest of their lives.

The other group, the ones who have their lives planned out, usually decided on the first options they were presented with, something that conflicts with my personality.

So, none of my friends have been able to calm my nerves, and the end of the school year is rapidly approaching.

I'm not exactly sure what I'll do yet, so right now I'm going to focus on choosing an elective.

I hope that decision will provide a catalyst for me to plan out the rest of my life.

Letter to the Editor: Webb addresses students

To the valued students of Northwestern State University:

The university is conducting an important study to document the impact the university has on the community and region. The study is intended to provide tangible evidence that the university's influence extends well beyond its mission of providing a quality education.

As part of that comprehensive community and economic impact study, we are contacting students to collect data, which will be used to determine the economic impact student spending has on the local community and region. It is very important that those students contacted provide the information requested.

The students will receive an e-mail from Veronica Ramirez Biscoe, director of University Planning and Assessment. The e-mail will contain a link to the survey, which is hosted on Zoomerang. This e-mail is not spam and should not be deleted.

I encourage each of you to participate. Your assistance is needed for this project to succeed. *However, your participation is strictly voluntary; you are not required to participate in the survey.*

The information you choose to provide will enable the researchers to calculate the economic impact students have on the community and region as accurately as possible. The information you provide will be kept confidential. *Do not write your name or any other information which identifies you personally on the survey form.* Your information will be combined with that from other students participating in the survey to prepare an estimate of the economic impact the university has on our community and region.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this survey. I look forward to sharing the results of this study with you and with the community at large when it is completed. The university's positive benefits on our community, region and state are something of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,
Randall J. Webb, President

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Student sees no 'choice' about abortion:
Pro-lifer speaks out against pro-choice schools of thought

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar



With Election Day over our heads, I'd like to tackle the issue of abortion. Both Senators McCain and Obama established their opinions on this matter.

Obama is pro-choice because he feels that women who have abortions do not make the decision lightly.

McCain is pro-life but is against a constitutional amendment banning it.

With that, it can be safe to assume that McCain is merely falling within the lines of the long-standing conservative republican description.

Aside from that however, I am pro-life. I stand for life because all things animate and inanimate exist because of it.

I've heard many say they are pro-choice because some women are rape victims and some have severe medical issues that cannot sustain pregnancy.

According to survey data collected by abortion providers, 95 percent of abortions are done as a means of birth control or to eliminate an unwanted pregnancy.

Only one percent are for rape victims and only three percent are because of maternal medical issues.

Ninety-five percent of abortions are women who merely want to erase the result of their sexual encounters.

Many of these women are teens seeking to escape the "wrath" of their parents.

I'm not making light of the decision these women have to make. I'm merely stating my opinion.

Abortion is wrong and it should be outlawed.

A parameter I am willing to provide would only be in favor of women with life threatening medical problems.

For a woman to have unprotected sex, get pregnant and abort her baby for no insurmountable reason is murder to me.

I think as a nation it's disgusting that we condone it.

Even if safer sex practices are employed, the fact is pregnancy is a possible result of sex.

If the conscious decision is made to participate in sexual intercourse then the decision should be made to consider possible outcomes.

After reading this you may think I'm biased for some reason. Let me tell you how much I am not.

Yes, I am a Christian, but my opinion on abortion has been the same for as long as I could logically reason.

Let me be more specific. I was pro-life before the good book told me to be.

Also, I have secondhand experience of what the women who have abortions go through.

My mother was advised to abort upon learning she had congestive heart failure.

My sister was a teenager who aborted to hide the pregnancy from my parents.

I have experienced different sides of the spectrum, and I still hate the act of abortion.

Now the big argument is whether or not the unborn child is considered to be an actual human being.

Excuse me, but when did that become a viable argument?

Prior to conception the womb is void of life. Once an egg and sperm fuse that is called fertilization.

We all started as a 'clump of cells' at one point. We all went from blastula, to zygote, to fetus, to baby girls and boys.

But aside from if you adhere to a certain timeline that judges whether or not a fetus can be considered an actual human, here are some facts.

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 40 abortions a day are performed on women carrying a child of five months or a little older.

At five months the mother is showing and the fetus is quite developed – so developed that it can feel the abortionist pulling its legs out into the birth canal with forceps, delivering its entire body save the head, jamming scissors into its skull and using a suction catheter to suck out its brains.

Yes, this is the form of abortion used when vacuum abortion is no longer an option.

People still choose to not call this murder.

But I forgot to mention that if the doctor accidentally delivers the entire fetus an abortion cannot be performed because that is considered murder.

I'm not sure there is very much else I can say on this topic, and I'm not really trying to sway you one way or the other. I just want people to know the facts because we are living in a time where the truth is all too coated with sugar.

Fletcher Jonson
Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editors
November 5, 2008

Demons tie for conference lead

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU Demon football team found itself in an unfamiliar spot after the back-and-forth against the Texas State Bobcats, which the Demons won in overtime, 34-31.

The unfamiliar spot for the Demons is sitting atop the Southland Conference.

NSU for the first time since 2004 is tied with the University of Central Arkansas for the SLC lead.

Byron Lawrence led the way for the Demons on the offensive side of the ball.

He carried the ball 34 times and gained 174 yards and two touchdowns, the second of which was the game-winning score. This game was the fifth straight 100-yard rushing game for Lawrence.

He is now in second place in rushing yards in the Southland Conference with 920.

"I get all the glory, but my offensive line deserves all the credit," senior running back Lawrence said. "They open up huge holes for me and make my job real, real easy."

Lawrence wasn't the only highlight for the Demons on the offensive side of the ball.

Quarterback Drew Branch, starting in his third straight game for injured John Hundley, went 12 of 23 for 171 yards and a 51-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Dudley Guice Jr.

The Demon offense gained a total of 422 yards with 251 of them coming on the ground.

"This was a huge team victory," head coach Scott Stoker said. "They [Texas State] are a very talented football team, and we knew for us to win this game we would have to play well on both sides of the ball, and we did that."

Texas State came into the game averaging more than 550 yards of total offense per game and 44 points per game. The Purple Swarm defense for the Demons was able to hold the high-powered Bobcat offense to only 350 total yards.

Also, the Demons were able to capitalize on TSU's mistakes, with cornerback Kasey Brown returning an interception back 40 yards for the touchdown only three minutes into the game.

Kicker Robert Weeks missed a 41-yard field goal that would have won the game in regulation and broken the record for most career field goals made by an NSU player.

Thanks in part to the four extra points Weeks scored, he is now NSU's all-time leading scorer for kickers.

He still stands one field goal away from breaking the all-time school record for field goals made and only a handful of points away from breaking the all-time career scoring record.

This game also was the first win on the road in the last 10 tries.

The Demons haven't been able to win on the road since 2006, and if they want to win the Southland Conference championship and gain an automatic bid into the playoffs, they will have to learn to win on the road for the rest of the season.

With only three games left, two of which are on the road, it will not be easy for the Demons.

"We helped ourselves with a win on the road against a good Texas State team, but this big game only makes the next one even bigger," Stoker said.

The NSU Demons line up next week in Conway, Ark. against the other first place team, the No. 9 University of Central Arkansas.

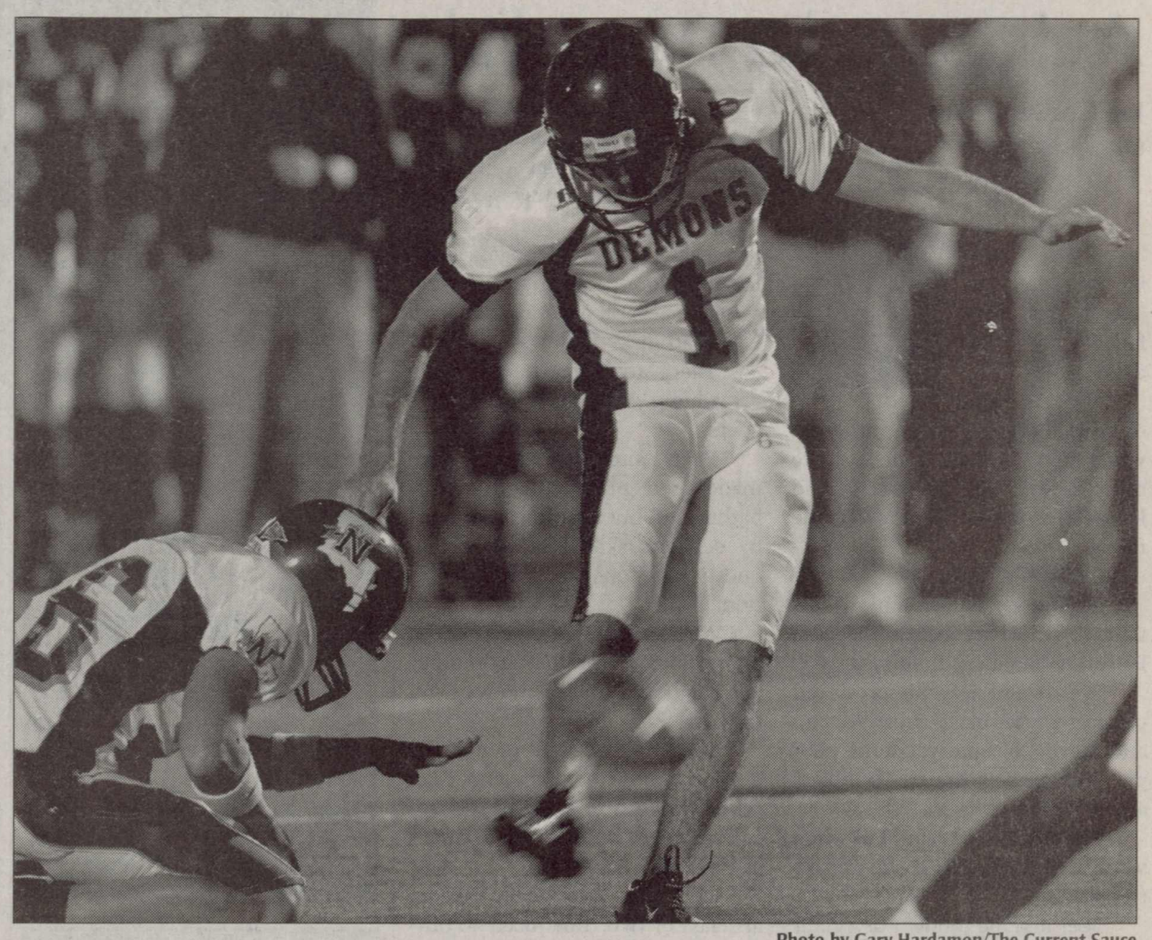


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Senior kicker Robert Weeks (1) broke the NSU scoring record for kickers in a 34-31 win over the Bobcats.

Consistency assists volleyball team

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU Lady Demon volleyball team seemed to flatten out the roller coaster ride it calls a season by winning its last two home games and extending its winning streak to three games this weekend, the longest this season.

It started with a 3-1 victory over the Nicholls State Lady Colonels. Leading the way for the Lady Demons was Markie Robichau, who scored a double-double, leading the team in kills with 15, and added 10 digs. Yelena Enwere also added 10 kills. Megan Dockery led the team in assists with 43 and tied with Megan Manning for team-high in digs with 13.

"This was one of the ugliest wins we have had all season, but a win's a win and we'll take it," head coach Brittany Uffelman said.

The third win of the season-high three-game winning streak came against the University of Southeastern Louisiana in straight sets. Laranda Spann and Markie Robichau led the team in kills with nine apiece. Megan Dockery for the second straight game led the team in assists with 26. Megan Manning was the only Lady Demon to crack double digit digs with 11. The Lady Demons had a high team hitting percentage of .301, compared to the Lady Lions who only managed a meager .010 hitting percentage.

"This was a critical win for us," Uffelman said. "This win puts us in the five win category and pretty much guaranteed a spot in the conference tournament. It puts us in a good situation with the conference tournament right around the corner."

This win moves the Lady Demons' record to 10-12 overall and 5-7 in Southland Conference play. Uffelman said moving the ball to junior setter Megan Dockery is crucial to winning.

"If we pass well there is no team in the conference that can beat us," Uffelman said. "I know it puts a lot of pressure on our passing game, but if we pass well we can be successful on the road."

After the four-game home stretch, the Lady Demons have a four-game away stretch where they play Stephen F. Austin, McNeese State, Lamar and Sam Houston State to finish off the season.

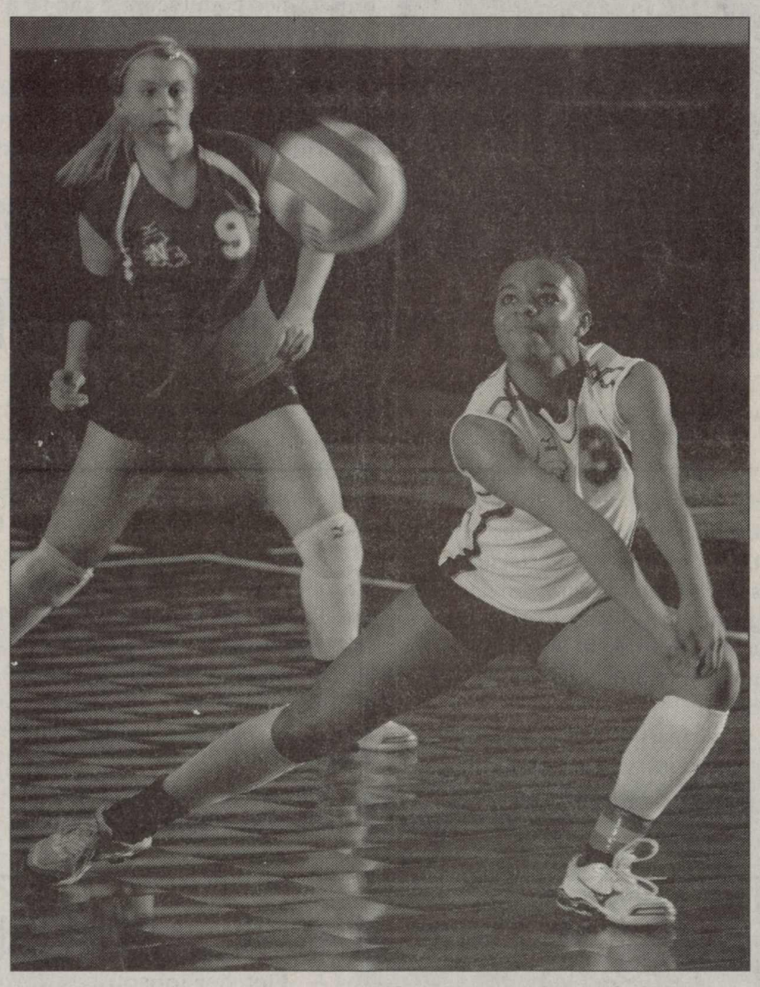


Photo By Gary Hardamon/ The Current Sauce
Megan Manning (3) leads NSU in digs in a 3-1 win over Nicholls State.

NSU closes out regular season

Asya Mitchem
Staff Reporter

The Lady Demons soccer team played its final games in the Southland Conference regular season last weekend.

The conference consists of 10 teams, and the Lady Demons finished the regular season in sixth place. The Lady Demons played against Texas State University Friday in San Marcos.

After the teams' hard efforts, the Lady Demons suffered a 1-0 loss against the Lady Bobcats. NSU managed only seven shots and two shots on goal. The Lady Bobcats outshot the Lady Demons 16-7. Texas State won the regular season conference championship, earning the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

"It's really frustrating for us all because we know we have such a good team. We are just having trouble finishing as a team," senior midfielder Bobbie Hayes said. "We are having trouble scoring goals. We are all working really hard. It just hasn't clicked yet."

Sunday, the Lady Demons lost another heartbreaker, 1-0 against the University of Texas at San Antonio. Once again, the Lady Demons never found the back of the net, being shut out for the third game in a row.

"Sunday was really emotional because we knew we had to win one of the two games to get into the conference tournament," Hayes said.

Despite the loss, the Lady Demons will be able to play in the Southland Conference tournament. The Lady Demons ranked higher than Sam Houston State because of the loss Sam Houston State had against Lamar University.

This resulted in the Lady Demons earning the sixth seed in the Southland Conference tournament. McNeese State goes into the tournament as the two seed, while UTSA enters as the three seed.

The Ladyjacks of Stephen F. Austin follow as the four, and Southeastern Louisiana University earned the five seed.

"We got a lucky break when Lamar beat Sam Houston," Hayes said.

The Lady Demons play their first game in the SLC tournament Thursday against UTSA in Lake Charles, La.

Current Demon Rewards Standings

1. Andy Bullard - 29
2. Fletcher Jonson - 29
3. Matt Folwer - 28
4. Matt English - 28
5. Chris Smith - 27
6. Casey Soileau - 26
7. Cecile Bodet - 24
8. Ashly Potier - 24
9. Susannah Bellon - 24
10. Samantha Wright - 24
11. Carl Dishler - 24
12. Audra Callender - 23
13. Lyndzee Greene - 23
14. Jessica McPhail - 23
15. Cary Bruno - 22

Fourth and Fletch: Optimism overlooked

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Northwestern State and the University of Central Arkansas are tied for the conference lead in the Southland Conference.

That's right. If the season ended today, the Demons would receive the automatic bid for the playoffs because UCA is not eligible.

I must admit I was very pessimistic entering the season.

This is very odd for me because I am usually the most optimistic person regarding my favorite sports teams.

I apologize to the NSU football team and coaching staff for my pessimism.

I have been waiting nearly four years for a team that is a legitimate contender for a conference title, with the last one being in 2004.

I have been patient for three years. I finally relinquished my optimism.

I have been told for the past few years that 2008 is supposed to be the season we make a run for the conference championship.

Before the season started, I said I would be happy with a six-win season.

I said six wins for two reasons: 1. It would be the most wins in a season since my freshman year, which was 2005, when NSU finished with a 5-5 record.

2. It would be tied for the highest winning percentage since I've been here. Considering we're 6-3 right now, my wish has come true.

However, I have a new wish now. With the Purple Swarm defense dominating and senior running back Byron Lawrence pounding his way through opposing defenses, we have a very, very good chance of winning the conference championship.

Congratulations to the team, which captured NSU's first road win since Oct. 21, 2006, when the Demons defeated Nicholls State 9-0. This weekend, the Demons outmuscled Texas State in San Marcos, 34-31 in overtime.

Whenever I found out we beat Texas State this weekend, I was in my apartment yelling, "We're tied for the conference lead."

I know my excitement grows every year for Demon athletics, but the last time I remember being that excited was in 2006 when the basketball team upset Iowa in the NCAA Tournament.

I hope my excitement can continue to grow over the next three weeks.

This weekend the team will travel to Conway, Ark., to battle the Bears in a showdown of conference leaders.

If the Demons upset the No. 9-ranked Bears, according to a rivals.com poll, NSU will be in a great position to win the conference title entering the always-anticipated McNeese State game, which is the last home game of the year.

The Demon football team has three quality opponents remaining this season.

All of them are crucial. On Nov. 15, when we host McNeese, I know the football team and coaches would love to see a packed Turpin Stadium.

That game could earn the conference title for the Demons, which would be the first since 2004.



The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 13

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This week

Rowing teams come to NSU

Natchitoches hosts the 19th annual rowing marathon.

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Letter to the editor

Student displeased with cross country coverage.

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Kicker breaks scoring record

Demon football player Robert Weeks makes NSU history.

p. 6

Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Weather

Wednesday 71°/51°

Thursday 75°/51°

Friday 80°/44°

Saturday 62°/33°

Sunday 67°/34°

Monday 68°/39°

Tuesday 67°/35°

Economic struggles strain NSU

Foundation experiences 16 percent investment drop

David Royal
News Editor
Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

The undesired situation, and yet widely popular subject, of the economic crisis has left its imprint on almost every aspect of the nation – including the education system.

At the NSU Foundation's quarterly review in October, members discussed the effects that the nation's current economic status has had on NSU's investments.

"Due to a complete unraveling of the market, NSU's financial plans have not been effective," said Stephen Lanzo, the managing director of Commonfund, which according to its Web site is a nonprofit corporation that specializes in managing the finances of educational institutions.

NSU President Randall J. Webb said the university and the NSU Foundation each have roughly a few million dollars invested in Commonfund.

In his report, Lanzo told the audience that in the months of September and October the value of the foundation's investments had dropped by 16 percent.

According to a summary of all of the foundation's marketable investment accounts that was given out at the quarterly review, the NSU Foundation's beginning market value in October 2007 was more than $7 million, and the ending value in September 2008 had dropped by more than $1 million.

Lanzo added, however, that NSU is only one of many universities being affected by the economic crisis.

Webb said he has personally never experienced an economic situation quite like this.

"With this drastic decline, I don't think anyone saw this on the horizon," Webb said.

Webb said he wanted to assure everyone that this specific depreciation of value in their investments will not affect the amount of scholarships granted to students.

Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Thomas Hanson said the reason not as many aspects of NSU are being affected as would be expected is because much of the university's funding comes from student fees, not stock investment.

Hanson explained that these aspects, such as funding for student organizations, could be indirectly affected, however, by the economic crisis. An example of this would be if citizens decide that they can no longer afford to attend NSU and enrollment drops as a result.

Hanson said, fortunately, this period in the market has typically worked to NSU's advantage.

"History has shown that when the economy is going down there is an increase in those seeking post-secondary education," Hanson said.

The primary aspect of NSU that will be affected is the amount of funding provided for endowed chairs and professorships, Webb said.

For students, the economic situation has also had varying effects.

Many students interviewed said they have been primarily affected in terms of the amount of financial aid given.

Andrea Pugh, a freshman psychology major, said she has had a difficult time coming up with the money to pay for school because of the crisis.

"Because I still owe the school money, my enrollment is being threatened," Pugh said. "I either pay the money by December 19, or I can't come back in the spring. I can't help it that I have a single mom. I'm doing all I can to pay them little by little, and I hate that my education is being threatened even after I've taken out loans."

Like Pugh, freshman liberal arts major Crystalyn Whitaker has had trouble obtaining financial aid this semester.

"Financial Aid told me my dad makes too much," Whitaker said. "I guess they don't care that he has to pay other bills. Luckily I have scholarships, but those weren't assured at one point."



Photo Illustration by Tiffany Thomas/ The Current Sauce

Students on campus have different outlooks concerning how they have been affected by the economic crisis surrounding the nation. Some say they feel that the issue has not necessarily had an impact on them yet because they are not completely financially independent. Many say, however, that the economic situation has influenced the amount of time they spend driving, which groceries they buy and how they pay for school.

Kegan Keller, a freshman education major and ROTC cadet, said the market has actually influenced the career path he will take after graduation.

In order to one day become a teacher, Keller said he has to rely on the military to pay for his school now and believes this has limited his career options in some ways.

Sophomore hospitality, management and tourism major Danielle Antoon said gas prices have caused her the most strain this semester.

"When the gas prices started rising, I, as with everyone else who had a vehicle, started to get very nervous and constantly wondered how much we would end up paying in the end," Antoon said. "Now that the prices are decreasing again, I feel very relieved."

Freshman business administration major Lacy Williams, however, said she honestly has not been influenced by the economy.

"I think it has affected older people more than, like, us college kids," Williams said. "I don't have bills to pay or anything, just gas, so I don't really think about it."

During the quarterly review, Lanzo said there is hope for students and NSU officials.

"We [Commonfund] do like what we see in the emerging markets," Lanzo said.

In order to help correct current economic problems, Lanzo explained that NSU officials and investors must make "major shifts" in their way of thinking. His advice included obtaining long-term endowments and having NSU officials meet more than just four times a year.

Webb said just as in the Great Depression the American people will rise above this current crisis.

"You have to ask yourself one thing: Do you have faith in the future of America?" Webb said.

Police stop traffic violators in their tracks, 59 citations issued



Photo by Leigh Gentry/ The Current Sauce

Edward Davis conducts this train repeatedly throughout the city of Natchitoches on Monday.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief

The City of Natchitoches Police Department joined the Louisiana State Police in cracking down on railroad crossing safety Monday morning.

The two departments had officers posted at the multiple railroad crossings that weave through Natchitoches for more than three hours Monday.

The officers observed violations – such as illegally crossing the railroad tracks when the lights are flashing – chased down the cars and wrote tickets, state police public information officer Scott Moreau said.

"The more law enforcement officers we have, the more people we can check," Moreau said.

The two departments issued 59 citations for illegally crossing the railroad tracks Monday morning, giving out 30-40 in just the first two hours.

Sophomore general studies major Zach Anderson received one of the 59 for going over the tracks while the warning lights were flashing.

Anderson said he saw the lights, stopped at the tracks, checked to see if it was clear and then crossed.

He said he saw the train, but it was far enough away for him to cross safely.

This was not his first time to cross railroad tracks illegally, but it was his first ticket for it.

Anderson said he didn't realize it was illegal to cross when the lights were flashing if he stopped to check first, and he wasn't the only one.

Natchitoches Police Department Sgt. Randy Williams said that all the drivers he pulled over said they didn't know the law.

He said they thought they could cross the tracks when the lights were on as long as they yielded and could cross safely.

However, Williams said traffic details like Monday's could teach them a thing or two.

"I don't know how much this citation costs, but if it's over $100 and this close to Christmas, they'll learn," Williams said.

The fine for illegally crossing railroad tracks depends on the judicial districts but can range from $50 to $500, Moreau said.

Edward Davis drove the Union Pacific train back and forth across a two-mile strip of railroad tracks in Natchitoches Monday.

A train conductor of five years, Davis said he sees many people cross in front of a moving train every day.

Davis has never been in a train accident, but he said he has seen more close calls than he cares to talk about.

"I just hope I never get involved in one," Davis said.

The two police departments were able to raise awareness about railroad crossing safety and to enforce the law during Monday's traffic detail.

"You fight a train, you can't win," Trooper First Class Adrian Landrineau of the Louisiana State Police Department said. "People don't realize a train can't stop."

An average freight train weighs about 12 million pounds and takes about a mile and a half to come to a complete stop, which may account for the 143 crashes with trains in Louisiana in 2006.

There were eight fatalities in the same year, according to the most recent complete statistics.

Preliminary 2007 information ranked Louisiana eighth with 14 fatalities, according to the Operation Lifesaver Web site.

Louisiana Operation Lifesaver is a national nonprofit organization that travels across the state to give presentations about railroad crossing safety.

The group's motto is "look, listen, live."

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is upgrading nine railroad crossings in Natchitoches, which will take about a year to complete, LaDOTD railroad coordinator Gretchen Ferguson said.

Ferguson said each upgrade costs between $175,000-$250,000, and Union Pacific, City of Natchitoches and a federal safety fund will split the bill.

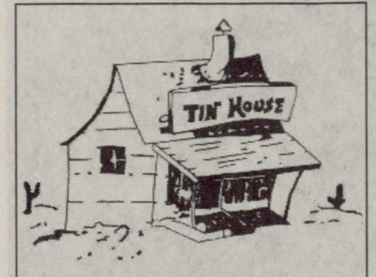
These upgrades include making some of the intersections "active" crossings by adding gates. Although this may help, it must be coupled with following the railroad safety laws, Moreau said.

"Putting active crossings up is not an answer to crashes," Moreau said.

Monday's traffic detail was Natchitoches' second one in the past year, and Union Pacific has been participating in these statewide details for five years.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
November 12, 2008

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SAB, SGA locked out

Officials take measures to secure organizations' property

David Royal
News Editor

The advisers and executive boards of the Student Government Association and the Student Activities Board are looking into and enforcing stricter measures to keep their property safe as a result of a failure to keep offices locked when unoccupied.

Yonna Pasch, director of Student Activities and adviser for the SGA, said both organizations have a great deal of technological equipment in their offices, and although nothing has been stolen this semester, she does not wish to take any chances. Some of this equipment includes computers, a copy machine and plasma television.

"We want to be proactive, not reactive," Pasch said.

Along with the technological equipment, Pasch said the offices hold personal student information that should not be allowed to be seen by just anyone who walks in.

Although both organizations have been warned in the past, members of the SAB and the SGA have failed to fulfill their responsibility to keep their items secured by locking their doors, Pasch said.

SAB adviser Kirk Lee said, though he could not speak for the members of the SGA, he agreed with Pasch and explained that there has indeed been a problem with the SAB not protecting their property.

As a result, Friedman Student Union manager Fred Teresa, Lee and Pasch decided to keep both offices locked to every student except the members of the executive boards. The Current Sauce was unable to contact Teresa.

Pasch said, in terms of the SGA, this new system is only serving as a "temporary fix" and is primarily in place "to get the attention of the students."

Lee said, however, that with the SAB this system could be in place for a while and may serve as permanent solution.

"I don't think the system is unwarranted at all," Lee said.

SAB President Roderick Wilson said this new system is fair because he and his members were warned more than once before, but said he nevertheless wishes it was not being implemented.

"It makes it harder for our board as a whole because we don't have free range to come in and out as we please," Wilson said.

SGA President Cody Bourque said he understands why Pasch and Lee implemented this new system.

He said he agrees that there has been some miscommunication between the senators and Pasch and that the SGA office has been left unlocked overnight a few times this semester.

Bourque added that he and the executive board have been trying to work with Pasch to help her see that the SGA needs access to the office.

"The office isn't just for the executives," Bourque said. "The senators need the office as well to be sure that they meet their responsibilities."

While the offices were closed last week, Bourque said the members of the SGA still tried their best to do their job. There was only one day during which the SGA was unable to hand out free scantrons to students, he said.

"We haven't allowed the situation to hamper us," Bourque said.

After speaking with the executive board last week, Pasch said that she and Teresa agreed to allow the SGA to return to its previous system, which essentially granted senators access to their office whenever they pleased.

Pasch explained, however, that the SGA failed once again over the weekend to prove that they were responsible enough to continue using their old system. As a result, Pasch and Teresa re-implemented their strict system.

SGA treasurer Lauren Michel said she believes the issue with the offices being locked is not a high priority on the SGA's list and said there are many issues that the organization is currently working on that should be given more attention.

Both Bourque and Michel assured that they and the remaining executive board have already met with Pasch and have come up with a solution.

"It's a problem that has been resolved, and there are much larger issues that we are addressing," Bourque said.

Pasch said, however, she believes the issue has not been resolved yet, and although she does agree that the members of the SGA should focus their time on other matters concerning the student body, she added that protecting the SGA's property should not be neglected.

"Right now there's no accountability in the offices, and we're now trying to find a happy medium for the problem," Pasch said.

Pasch met with the SGA executive board yesterday to help find a solution for the issue, such as establishing a checkout system for the office keys.

Cancer research continues as grant nears end

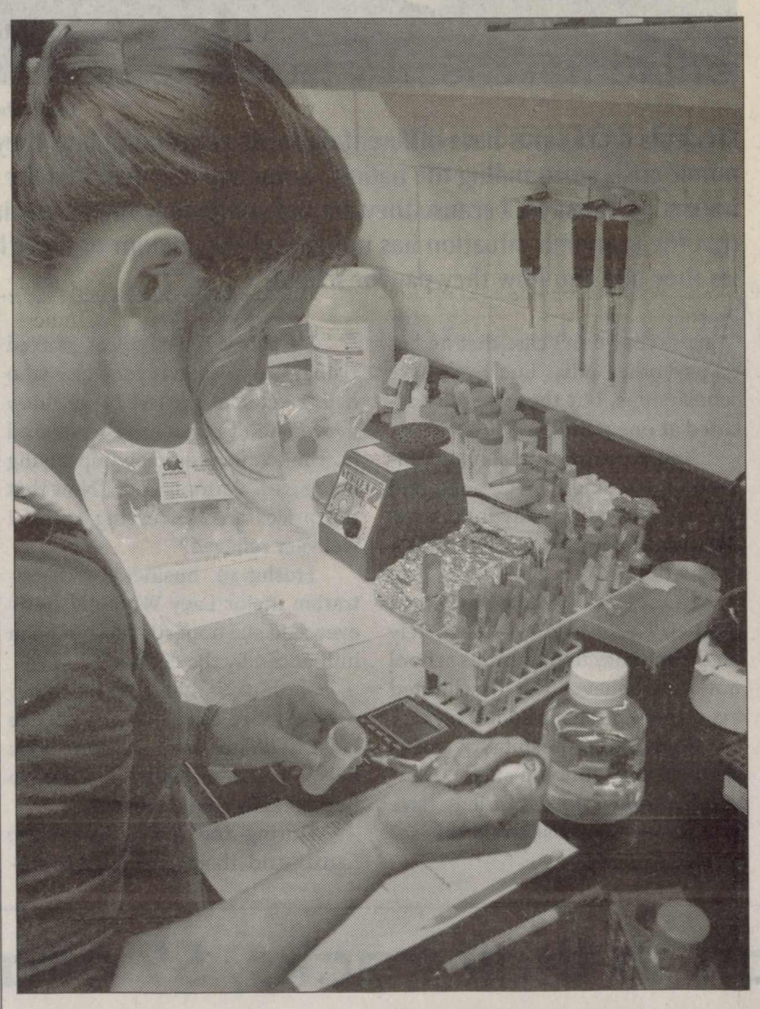


Photo by Amanda Crane/ The Current Sauce

Junior biology major Sarah Timmons works with yeast that she has grown in the lab. Results from these studies could potentially lead to a better understanding of cancer.

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

Francene Lemoine, an assistant professor of biological sciences, has reached the end of a three-year grant to study chromosome rearrangement in order to find a cure for cancer.

Her team has identified fragile sites on yeast chromosomes, which Lemoine said have been known to exist in human cells.

No one has been able to identify them in less complex organisms, she said.

"By identifying them in the yeast, hopefully we can figure out how they work in less complex organisms and then try to relate our studies to how it actually happens in human cells," Lemoine said. "It's an ongoing project. There are many things that can go on beyond this point."

Lemoine said she hopes to get more grants so that she can continue her research.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society awarded Lemoine with the $180,000 grant in June 2005 while she was teaching at Duke University.

The grant, a career development award, provides young researchers with the materials they need to get labs functioning and begin their research.

Lemoine began studying chromosome rearrangement in 2002 to determine the initial cause of translocations – the term for the actual break in the chromosome – and to figure out why the translocations occur.

"If you can prevent the break from initially happening then you can prevent it from being repaired incorrectly, and you won't have a translocation," Lemoine said. "There's such a large aspect of understanding the development of cancer when dealing with DNA repair."

Lemoine explained that chromosomes are long strands of DNA that must stay intact for a cell to grow and develop normally. When it breaks, the pieces of DNA are no longer together, and there is a chance that they will not pass on to the next cell correctly.

Lemoine's research is conducted on yeast in her lab, where it is grown in a controlled environment and under different conditions for a more effective study. By using yeast, she has found that some regions of the chromosomes have developed fragile sites – the site at which the chromosome will break.

Lemoine is not alone in her journey. Three undergraduate students assist her through the Joint Venture (JOVE) program.

The NSU College of Science and Technology Web site defines it as a highly selective scholarship program for students majoring in biology, chemistry, mathematics or physics, with the intent of giving students the opportunity to pursue research in their field at the undergraduate level.

Sarah Timmons, a junior biology major, joined the JOVE program this fall after talking with her adviser and realizing how much it would benefit her future.

"It's fun because it is your own project to work on," Timmons said. "It sounds dorky, but now I can grow my own yeast and keep growing it if I mess it up. This is a great way for me to get hands-on experience that I wouldn't get sitting in a classroom."

Lemoine and the undergraduate assistants are currently trying to develop techniques to identify the chromosome rearrangements more efficiently.

They began studying them one cell at a time and are now looking for a way to analyze them rapidly and more at a time.

If they are successful in finding a new technique, the research team may be able to increase the study pool and uncover more fragile sites to observe.

"If we can increase the number of fragile sites we are looking at then we can eventually make some general statements as to what makes it a fragile site and what makes it break in that condition," Lemoine said. "Once we figure it out with the yeast we can then look at why it happens in human cells."

Lemoine's interest in DNA repair began while taking her first genetics class as an undergraduate at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

She earned her Ph.D. at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where she studied the human T-cell leukemia virus. After teaching at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Duke University, she moved back to her native state and has been a professor at NSU for three years.

With the help of the grant she received in 2005, Lemoine was able to further her research. She said she used the money from the career development award to purchase equipment for lab studies, and designated amounts of the budget supplemented her salary for independent lab hours.

Lemoine's work has been published in two professional biology journals. Her first paper was published in "The Cell," and most recently her research was published in the October 2008 edition of "Molecular and Cell Biology."

One problem Lemoine says she faces as a researcher is that people want a pill that will cure all types of cancer.

However, it is not that easy.

Each type of cancer is unique, and each person with cancer is unique too, she said. If there is in fact a cure for cancer, Lemoine said it will be found in the basic components of the human body.

"Understanding how the human cell works is vital before even searching to find a cure or even a treatment for cancer," Lemoine said. "People want someone who will find a vaccine or treatment that will prevent them from getting cancer, but there will never be that magic pill."

Just 2 issues left of the *Sauce* this semester...
So join now!
Reporters, columnists, cartoonists, photographers and videographers are always welcome.
Contact us at thecurrentsauce@gmail.com or 318.357.5381.
The Current Sauce staff holds meetings Mondays at 5 p.m. in 227 Kyser Hall.

The Argus, NSU's award-winning art and literary magazine, is currently accepting submissions for this year's issue. The Argus will consider poetry, fiction and photography submissions for publication.

For more information, contact the staff at nsuargus@gmail.com or search for the NSULA Argus Facebook group.

Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
lgentry001@student.nsula.edu
November 12, 2008

TIPS

Students rely on gratuity more than standard wages to keep up with rent



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

A large number of students at NSU work in the food industry, whether they're preparing meals or taking orders. Some of them have to depend on the tips they receive to be able to pay for their school, housing and utility expenses.

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Tipping is subjective, not a science.

The constantly changing U.S. economy has affected the way people spend, splurge and save.

Some people have pinched their pennies in areas that they feel will benefit their wallets instead of others' incomes – like tipping their servers at restaurants.

In past years, a widely accepted gratuity standard has been 15 percent of a bill. Some cell phones even include a convenient "tip calculator" that use the 15 percent rule.

Many people stick to the 15 percent minimum.

Others consider the server's personality, the quality of the food and the time it took for the server to bring it to the table.

It can be a challenge for a college student to tip on a regular basis, but it can be even tougher for the students who depend on those tips.

Servers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, take customers' orders, serve food and sometimes work as cashiers, depending on the restaurant at which they work.

Amy Fain, a senior music education major at NSU, has worked at Sonic Drive-In on Keyser Avenue as a carhop for about a year – full time in the summer and part time during school.

She said her job at Sonic is rewarding, and that her tips are an essential part of her income.

"My tips pay for my food, and my checks pay for my rent and bills, so I do depend on tips from Sonic," Fain said.

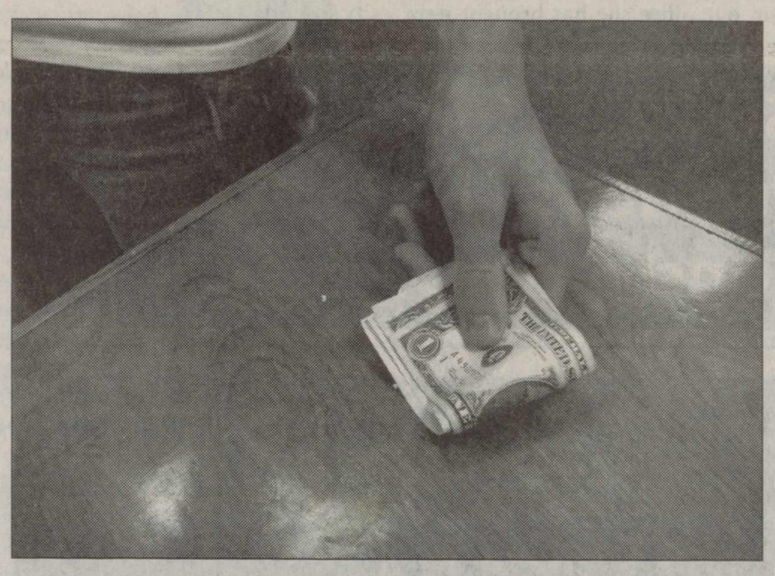


Photo Illustration by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Tipping methods vary, according to many student servers.

A general shift is about six hours, and Fain said she can make anywhere from $20 to $30 in tips in a shift.

"Some days you won't even get any tips, but it just depends, like, I usually make anywhere from $80 to $100 in tips a week," Fain said.

Fain said she has seen customers tip based on a server's demeanor.

She said she tries to keep a pleasant attitude while she's at work. She also tries to avoid giving customers the cold shoulder or "getting in their face." Some customers put money back in their purses when servers are rude, Fain said.

"Sometimes I've seen people even get money back out and go, 'Well, you were very nice and you smiled and you made my day,' and they give you money. It depends on you. You are your tip," Fain said.

A number of issues can affect a server's behavior.

A server might end up handling several customers in one evening, and if there are problems within a restaurant – miscommunication between the kitchen staff and the server, a shortage of products or even a manager's bad mood – the customer sometimes gets neglected and takes it out on the server.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports a mean hourly wage of $8.93 for waiters and waitresses, but most servers interviewed said their wages are between $2 and $3 per hour.

Fain said she tries to tip well when she goes out to eat regardless of how good the service is. Lillian Hare, a senior psychology major, share's Fain's perspective. Even when her server makes a mistake or seems to be having a rough night, she still tips because she doesn't know what's going on in the kitchen or how many tables they have.

Hare advised people who don't tip to realize that their servers are not making the minimum wage they would at any other job.

"They're making below what's expected. A lot of people assume that you're making 5.15, 5.85, 6, whatever the amount is – but really, you're making barely enough to get by," Hare explained. "At the end of the week, your paycheck is the tables that you're working on. So, if you have a slow week and you don't have tables, you don't have rent."

Hare worked as a barista at Mr. Johnny's Café and Bistro on Front Street last semester.

Hare said her tips at Mr. Johnny's ranged from $0.20 to $10 a day, even though she made drinks according to customers' specifications.

She pointed out that a bartender can hand an open bottle of Bud Light to a customer and get a $1 tip, but a barista might make a coffee drink according to the customer's detailed requests and get nothing in return.

"If you're already paying $1.99 for coffee, why not spend another dollar?" Hare asked.

It may simply be a matter of ignorance.

Hare said one customer even reached into the tip jar when she was a few cents short of paying her bill, though the word "tips" was clearly displayed on the front of the container.

Hare said she also worked at the local restaurant Chuck Wagon for about a year before working at Mr. Johnny's. She said her work sometimes affected her studies. At Mr. Johnny's, she said she worked around 30 hours a week and tutored on campus in addition to her course load as a full-time student.

Even students who deliver pizza are not immune. Fain delivered pizza for a Domino's in Bossier City while she was in high school. She said most of her tips were only about $1 or $2, despite the gas expenses that most delivery workers have to pay for themselves.

Fain said she loves her job at Sonic and hopes to continue working there. Hare, though, seems to have had her share of life as a server, and she said she doesn't want to work in the industry again if she can help it.

City hosts rowing marathon

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

Natchitoches hosted the 19th annual Marathon Rowing Championship – the only continuous 26.2-mile marathon on a lake in the country – Saturday at the meandering Cane River Lake.

"The water here is ideal for an event like this, and it's one of the main contributors of recruiting schools to come," director of marathon programming Jason Stelly said.

This event has drawn crowds from as far as California and London. Former crew coach Alan Pasch even said that this was a down year for the event because of the economy and the amount of money it takes in gas, food and just overall preparation for an event like this.

There were still more than 110 participants at the championships from more than 35 schools and rowing clubs across the country.

The main attraction was the defending National Champion Wisconsin Badgers crew team. They were successful in breaking the oldest record in the Marathon Rowing Championships' history. They broke the 16-year-old record by three minutes in the men's open eight division.

NSU also had a good showing in the championship, winning gold in its division, mixed open eight, with a time of three hours and 32 minutes.

The event wasn't open to just college teams, but to anyone who wanted to enter the event. More than 15 participants entered their canoes, kayaks and own personal racing shells.

"This event gives us a really good race, and it gives us [NSU crew] a really good name," NSU crew president and coxswain Brandi Guilbeau said. "Not only that, but it does great things for the city and helps put NSU on the map."

The event was sponsored by the City of Natchitoches, the Natchitoches Rowing Club and the NSU crew team. Sodexo also provided drinks and gumbo for the participants of the championship.

"The good southern hospitality is always a good draw, especially from people up north like Wisconsin," Stelly said.

Highlighting... NSU Twirlers

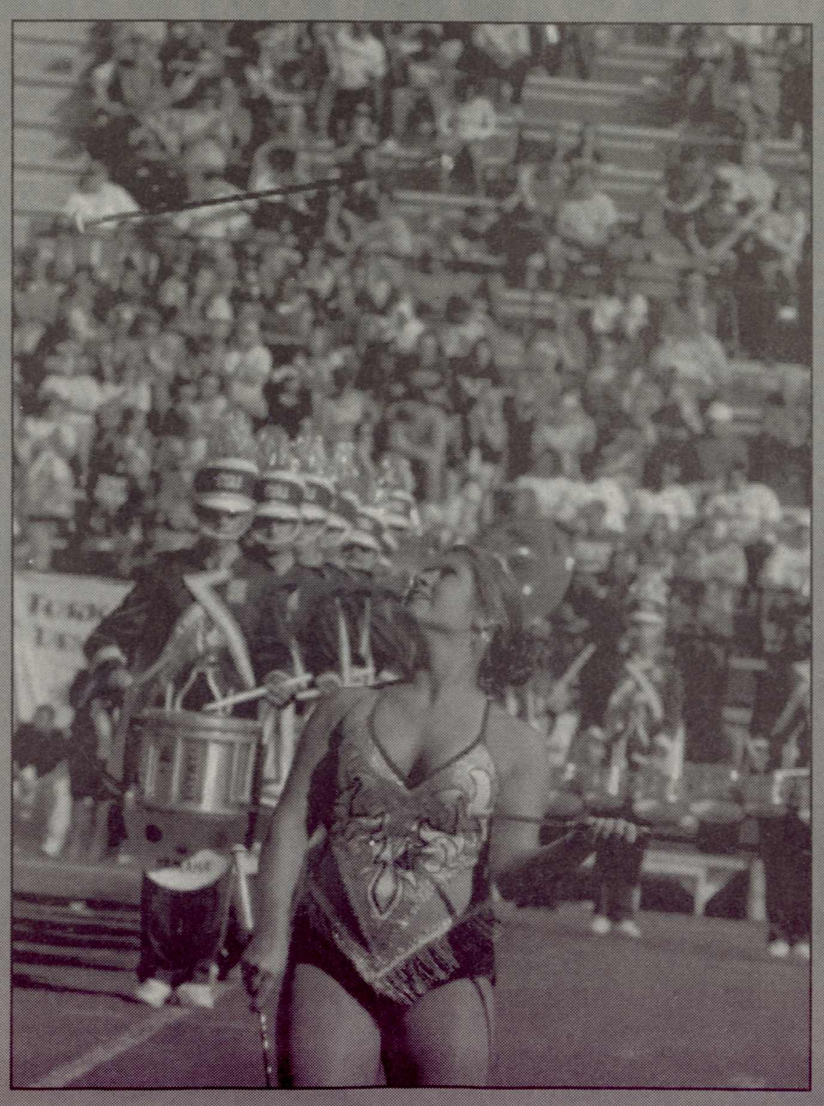
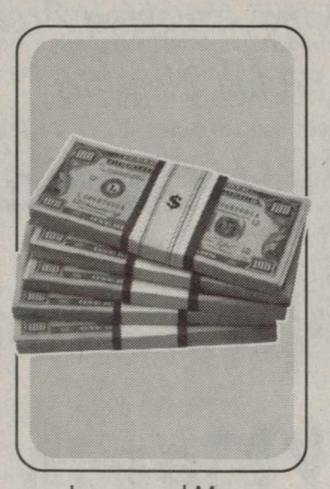


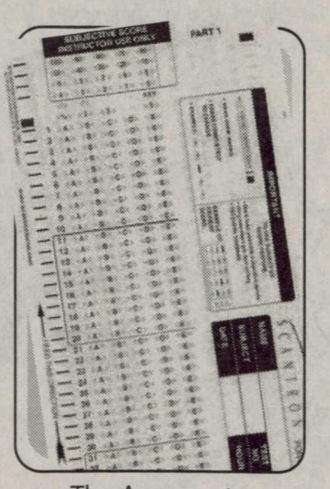
Photo by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce

Jessica Turpin twirls for NSU during half-time at a home football game.

Jessica Adams joins Turpin as an NSU twirler this year.


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Leigh Gentry
Editor in Chief
lgentry001@student.nsula.edu

Dates to Remember:

Last day to resign B-term classes with a W
Friday, Nov. 14

Christmas Festival begins
Saturday, Nov. 22

Thanksgiving break
Monday, Nov. 24
to Saturday, Nov. 29

Christmas Gala
Thursday-Friday, Dec. 4-5

Deadline for graduate students to submit all required documents for fall 2008 graduation
Friday, Dec. 5

Last day of classes
Wednesday, Dec. 10

Finals week
Wednesday, Dec. 10 to
Wednesday, Dec. 17

Residence halls close
Thursday, Dec. 18

Fall semester graduation
Friday, Dec. 19

Faculty member fills many roles

Asya Mitchem
Staff Reporter



Photo by Asya Mitchem/The Current Sauce

Tara Hawthorne interns with NSU's department of Greek life while working on her master of arts degree in Student Personnel Services.

"Live like there is no tomorrow" is the attitude that NSU's assistant director of new student programs Tara Hawthorne expresses daily.

Hawthorne, originally from Loraine, Ohio, graduated from Ohio State University in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in criminology. After graduation, Hawthorne began working for Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She served as the assistant director of Fraternity and Sorority Life for three years.

Some may wonder how Hawthorne stumbled upon a small town such as Natchitoches.

Simply put, Hawthorne knew she wanted to attend a graduate program in the south, leading her to search for southern graduate schools that were best known for her area of study.

"I never visited, I just packed up my car and came on down, call me crazy," Hawthorne said.

Hawthorne's free spirit and willingness to take a chance on a place like NSU shows that sometimes living life like there is no tomorrow brings the best rewards.

Hawthorne not only a graduate student, but she also serves as a faculty member at NSU.

In 2007 she started working on her master of arts degree in Student Personnel Services. Hawthorne currently holds a 4.0 GPA, which she hopes to maintain until she graduates in May 2009.

Hawthorne also serves as an intern at NSU in the department of Greek life for her graduate program. As an intern, she works as an adviser for the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

NPHC serves as the governing body for the six black sororities and fraternities at NSU.

As an intern, Hawthorne also co-advises the College Panhellenic Council (CPC) and the InterFraternal Council (IFC).

CPC is the governing body for the four sororities at NSU, and IFC is for the six fraternities here at NSU as well.

"Tara has been a role model to me and other Greeks on campus," Gracie Hubley, a member of Tri Sigma Sorority and CPC, said.

Hawthorne became interested in Greek life because of the experience she gained from being a part of the Theta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA).

As an undergraduate member, she served as president for the Theta chapter of AKA while being president and vice president of NPHC.

"AKA has brought me so much," Hawthorne said. "I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for AKA. The best part of my job is the students whether it may be from Greek life to new student programs."

Some students who are a part of the Greek community appreciate the vitality that comes with her.

"Since Tara has been working in our office she has brought new life to our programs, and I'm sure she will continue to do so in the future," Vanner Erickson, a member of Theta Chi fraternity and IFC said.

Jeremy Evans, a member of NPHC, said Hawthorne serves as an inspiration because of the help she has provided him since she became a part of NSU.

"Tara makes me feel like Iron Man - like I can do anything under her guidance," said Evans, who is also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Hawthorne said her ultimate goal is to be Vice President of Student Affairs at a college or university some day.

Check out NSU 22
Tuesdays and Thursdays
at 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.



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Half the Battle: By your votes combined

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



Yes, the title of this column is an allusion to Captain Planet, who shouts "By your powers combined!" whenever five kids call out their elements.

Four of those elements, Earth, Wind, Fire, and Heart, also make up the worst idea for a rock concert ever.

Anyway, I reference Captain Planet because Barack Obama has the potential to save the world, and I discovered this after reading all the status updates on Facebook just moments after Obama was declared our next president.

Almost everyone had the same reaction: "I'm getting the @$#% outta here!" Well, after thinking about it, I came to the conclusion that this was Barack Obama's economic plan all along.

You see, if people start leaving the country, there will be a high supply of houses. Higher supply means lower prices. People can afford to pay their loans, which helps bring the loan companies out of bankruptcy.

There will be a higher supply of everything else, come to think of it.

More food, clothing, and gas means, again, cheaper prices. People will save money and be able to buy Hybrid vehicle, creating an even greater surplus of gas, and more gas means more oil. All this surplus oil means we can pull out of the Middle East and close down some oil refineries.

With these oil refineries closed, and with the Hybrids everyone will be driving, we cut down on pollution, which gets Al Gore out of the news. It also means less air pollution so more sunlight can reach the earth.

This extra sunlight will give us more solar energy so we can build solar power plants, which will give jobs to those who lost jobs when the oil refineries closed down.

Plus, the lack of pollution means plants and animals will grow bigger and reproduce more, and this increases the food surplus dramatically.

There will be so much extra food that we can end world hunger.

Because people in Third World countries will be fed, they will be less grouchy and stop warring with each other.

With the ensuing peace, they grow and become First World countries.

These countries will approach the United Nations and tell us how peace helped them become advanced, so the U.S., followed by the rest of the world, stops all wars and decommissions all nuclear weapons.

The uranium from these weapons will be transported to a far away island and put into a containment facility, but a local reptile will somehow manage to get in and mutates to become a dinosaur.

This dinosaur will spawn more dinosaurs, and the sudden increase in weight on the island will cause it to sink a little, which means water will flood the containment facility and flush the uranium into the ocean. The uranium then will cause sea creatures to mutate and begin to walk on land.

Well, suddenly, right-wing evangelical Christians will realize that evolution is real and overthrow Pat Robertson. Embracing science, they will become scientists who will make the world a better place using both morality and intellect.

...You know, now that I think about it, I want you all to move out of the country, but move to Mexico. In Canada, you'd catch a cold.

In short, by your votes combined, America, Barack Obama will save the world.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Internet classes change student life as we know it

Cody Bourque
SGA President

What do student fees mean to you?



Are they just a nuisance when you go to fee payment at the first of the semester and never think about them again, or do you take full advantage of the money you pay? Or, the question we are facing today, do you even pay the fees that should be assessed on your account?

Student self-assessed fees, which are the fees that go to student organizations like SGA, SAB and student media, fund the student life we know today.

Without them we would have no Lady of the Bracelet, no Current Sauce and no Student Union.

Life at Northwestern State would be a far cry from what we would expect when you think of the college experience, but it is very possible in 10 years that we could see drastic changes in student life if we do not address some issues we face today.

We are addressing problems with the way that fees are assessed currently because there are discrepancies regarding students who take classes online and on the Natchitoches campus, which could result in $34,000 for student organizations.

You can look in the fee payment booklet where it talks about the assignment of a primary campus where you take a majority of your classes, but there is an issue with the assessment of the fees to students who take that hybrid of face-to-face classes and online classes that is possibly causing the lost revenue.

In order to make sure that these fees should rightfully be assessed, we are researching all past student referendums that have created the fees to make sure all stipulations set forth by them are being followed.

This is just a Band-Aid over a bigger problem we are facing, which is the loss of traditional students on campus funding these programs and organizations.

I am not saying anything about fee increases at the moment, but you can see the impact by just looking at our student government budget.

We are lowering our executive scholarships to a salary structure to save more money that can be distributed to the student body for projects and/or programs that are not possible with our current budget.

Fees are always a touchy issue, but we need everyone at the table to discuss these problems as a student body so that we can solve the issues facing us financially so there will be a brighter future for student life at NSU.

Student drives home point about alcohol

Bethany Frank
Guest Columnist



The semester rolls to an end, and books have taken a permanent residence sprawled across the bed you so longingly wish you could inhabit. A small break is all you need to get the scholastic juices rolling again, a small reprieve of an evening distraction to help free your mind.

A night out with the friends. One drink to make all your problems float away. But who stops at one? Alcohol is wonderful in moderation, but students do not understand this seemingly complex word.

Alcohol is proven throughout history to prolong life. Even the Bible mentions alcohol's medical properties about 191 times, according to "The Benefits of Moderate Drinking: Alcohol, Health and Society."

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 cause of death in the U.S., and moderate drinking helps decrease this risk by 40-60 percent, according to "Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research."

Men who drink moderately have a 21-28 percent lower risk of death from all causes compared to abstainers, according to a Harvard study.

So why not just lower the drinking age and encourage collegiate drinkers?

Because college students don't know how to say no or know when to stop.

About 1,700 students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, and 599,000 are unintentionally injured while under the influence, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Drinking alters behavior, and alcohol can make a seemingly wonderful person do things they typically wouldn't do.

Students have endless conversations regarding their "type of drunk." Sexual. Aggressive. Funny. Mean. Loud.

But who is affected by their alcohol-induced behavior?

Each year, 2.1 million students drive drunk, and more than 696,000 students are assaulted by someone under the influence, according to the MADD.

Alcoholic abuse doesn't just leave a black eye or a damaged fender.

There are more than 97,000 victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape. While under the influence, 400,000 students have unprotected sex, and more than 100,000 were too intoxicated to know if they even consented to sex, according to the MADD.

When students forget how to say no to alcohol, they lose track of everything a collegiate career should entail. While a social life is important, students forget that they are at college to learn.

About 25 percent of students relate their academic difficulties and missed classes to drinking. Academia and alcohol actually have an inverse relationship. Fifteen minutes of lost studying is a result of each additional drink, according to MADD.

This does not mean students cannot drink with their friends at a party or the club; it means students need to learn to limit their consumption.

Binge drinking is a hidden issue on campus. Many students partake in binge drinking and don't realize it. About 42 percent of all college students have actually reported that they binge drink, but in actuality, 70 percent of students on most campuses binge drink, according to "What are the Binge Drinking Statistics" by Jeff Stevens.

Binge drinking is when a man consumes more than five drinks in a sitting or when a woman consumes more than four drinks in a sitting. Most participants are under the age of 21 and are fraternity or sorority students, according to Stevens.

Binge drinking has resulted in the deaths of 1,400 college students, 500,000 injuries, 600,000 assaults and about 40,000 cases of unprotected sex. Even more discouraging, 2.1 million college students drive drunk after binge drinking, according to Stevens.

Students wonder why they cannot afford books or food or decent living. Most of their money is going to repair the effects of their nightlife activities, with a large chunk going to support the cause of the damage.

Students spend collectively nearly $5.5 billion on alcohol a year, averaging to about $500 per student, according to Stevens. Many might find this number outrageous, but look at the drink prices at Maggio's or the pub or Yesterday's. About $6 a mixed drink, two drinks a week, 52 weeks a year. The total: $624.

Everything is good in moderation. And while drinking might be a slightly expensive pastime, it's not bad. It is just constantly being abused by college students as a way to "let loose" or "have fun" or "forget."

Students are giving alcohol a bad name. Students need to learn how to say no and acknowledge the meaning of moderation.

Letter to the Editor:
Student's outrage at neglect

Dear Current Sauce,

This entire semester I have read the sports section of the paper hoping to see something about the Cross Country team (a university sports team), but to this date there has been nothing.

Last week the men and women competed in their conference meet and didn't even get a mention.

This is Conference we're talking about here, the thing they have been training for since the before school began.

A couple of weeks before Conference the men's team took first place at a meet and still the sports section had nothing.

So I asked one of the editors, Andy Bullard, why they had neglected the team their ENTIRE season he said "because nobody cares."

I was shocked. Nobody cares? Really? I care. I'm sure the men and women who go out there and run those freakish amounts of miles care.

I'm sure their coaches care. I think the athletic administration would care. So to me, it looks like SOMEBODY cares.

You know what no one cared about, that article he wrote a few weeks ago about the questions he heard at a football game. That was a waste of ink and paper space.

As a journalist and a part of student media, I honestly was offended by his comment; journalists are supposed to be the voice of the voiceless.

It sickens me to know that he knowingly discriminated against the team.

So Andy, I look forward to the apology you offered to me and the team and I hope in the future you will do your job and report on sports.

Trecey Rew
NSU student

Letter to the Editor: Fraternity apologizes

November 7, 2008

On behalf of the active and alumni members of the Theta Mu chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, the chapter offers its most sincere and humble apology for actions committed by our chapter during a fundraiser held in mid-October.

Four members of our chapter, as part of their skit for our annual auction, dressed in Rapper attire, depicting comedians in an act called "Lil John Visits the Doctor."

Without knowing of the offensive nature of their actions, these four members included "black face" as part of their attire. In retrospect, we realize that their actions were insensitive and hurtful and for those actions, we again apologize.

Since that time, our chapter was suspended pending an investigation by our national fraternity. During this process, nearly every member of our chapter was interviewed about the intent and impact of their actions.

It was never the intent of any of our membership to offend anyone in any way. We are proud of our positive relationships with all of our NPHC, IFC and PanHellenic chapters at Northwestern. Knowing that we have offended our peers is a punishment in itself.

We as a brotherhood have had ample time to realize the unintentional malice caused by this action. We are heartily sorry for whatever hurt we have caused.

In the next several weeks, we as a chapter will participate in a chapter-wide membership review that will be conducted by officers and volunteers of the national fraternity.

A membership review allows for extreme self-exploration, and it is our hope that we complete this process even more aware of the impact of bad decisions...decisions we make as undergraduates and decisions we make as young adults in society.

We are confident that this process will shed necessary light on diversity and how important respect for diversity is to society.

Additionally, we will participate in an indepth diversity sensitivity training that will be offered by our national fraternity.

Though we are the ones who committed the infraction, we definitely will invite our peer Greek chapters to participate in this training.

Though we never intended to cause harm, we all realize that we all have a responsibility to be sensitive to thoughts and feelings of others, and an action like the one we sanctioned did nothing but cause hurt. That should not have happened.

We offer again our most sincere apology. Our relationship with our communities is very important to us, and this unfortunate occurrence only taught us the need for thought before action.

Sincerely,

The Brotherhood of Kappa Sigma
Theta Mu Chapter
Northwestern State University

Don't forget to visit www.thecurrentsauce.com to check out all our special features, like online exclusive content, polls and our brand new podcast, the Saucecast! Sign-up to receive our latest issues by e-mail, too!

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Sports Co-Editors
November 12, 2008

Records made to be broken

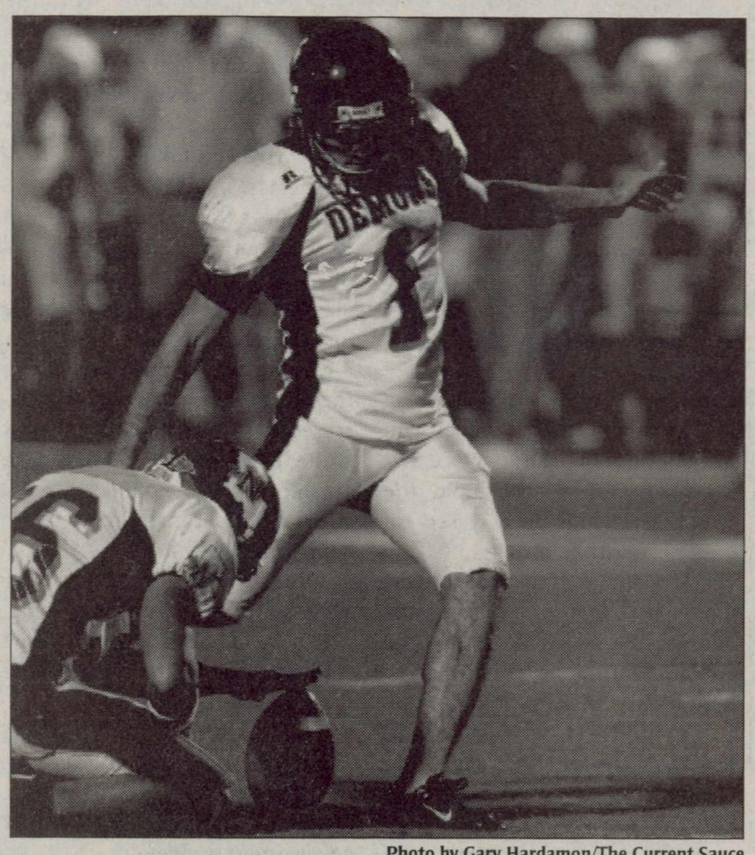


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Senior kicker Robert Weeks (1) holds the records for career field goals made, career points for kickers and points in a career.

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Senior kicker Robert Weeks rewrote the NSU record book Saturday as he booted two field goals.

Weeks' first field goal gave him the record for career field goals, while the second one broke NSU's career scoring record previously held by former running back Derrick Johnese, who played from 2002-2004.

Weeks also broke the kicker scoring record earlier in the year.

Weeks started playing football when he was only a sophomore in high school. Weeks said he never planned on becoming a kicker.

Ironically, he could do that for a living at the professional level.

"I would love to play football in the future," Weeks said. "I'm really not sure if anything will open up for me professionally. Kickers are usually pretty hit and miss. It's all about timing and opportunity. I plan on attending some NFL development camps after the season."

Weeks originally wanted to play soccer, which is why he has such a knack for kicking.

His football career started when his high school football coach asked him to kick at the first practice.

After that first kick, Pineville High School found itself a new place kicker.

"I'm not quite sure what would have happened if I wouldn't have made that kick," Weeks said.

He made the kick and now holds three records at Northwestern State.

Weeks said he chose the Demon football program because of the opportunities that were ahead of him.

He said NSU had been after him since his junior year in high school and offered him a full scholarship.

NSU was one of two schools to offer him full scholarships to play football.

He also said the school's proximity to Pineville, La., played a big role in his decision to become a Demon.

"The location was perfect because it is only an hour from where I'm from," Weeks said. "So my family has always been able to watch me play, and they are a huge part of my life."

Weeks said his coaching staff, offensive line, deep snapper and holder have also contributed to his success.

He said their support has made his job as place kicker much easier.

"I have been very lucky in having a very reliable holder in Phil Leblanc and snapper in Bradley Russo," Weeks said. "My offensive line has done a remarkable job not only this year, but over the past three years as well. I have also always felt that the coaching staff has believed in me every time that I step on the field."

His confidence and determination allowed him to split the uprights with a career-long field goal of 48 yards earlier this season.

His junior season, Weeks hit the only game-winning field goal of his career with a 35-yarder against the University of Central Arkansas.

He said that was the highlight of his football career.

"It was something that I had never experienced before," Weeks said. "That was the first time that I had ever had an opportunity to win a game. I've never felt anything like it since then."

Weeks plans to graduate in the fall of 2009 with a journalism degree and a concentration in public relations.

"I really want to intern somewhere next summer," Weeks said. "So after that I won't have much school left. Plus it will give me a chance to see everyone play that was in my recruiting class."

Weeks added that he wants to work in the sports side of public relations, collegiately or professionally.

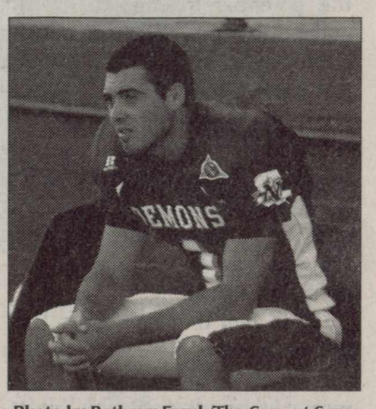


Photo by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce

Robert Weeks

Lady Demons tame Tigers

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU Lady Demon basketball team tipped things off Nov. 5 with a 67-56 win over Ouachita Baptist University in an exhibition game held in the Natchitoches Central High School gym.

Leading the way for the ladies in purple and white was true freshman point guard Demetria White.

White finished the game with 13 points and six assists, both game highs. Newcomer Britany Kinlaw was the only other Lady Demon in double figures, scoring 11 off the bench.

The freshman forward was only 3-9 from the floor, but hit 5 of 6 free throws. The Lady Demons shot 78 percent from the charity stripe as a team.

Despite shooting nearly 80 percent from the free throw line, the Lady Demons managed only a 32 percent field goal percentage.

"We were worked up," head coach Jennifer Graf said. "I've never seen a group so nervous. We've scrimmaged against each other. We've done a lot of different things to simulate a game and I understand that it's the first time some of these kids have stepped out in front of a crowd, so they were kind of worked up."

The Lady Demons calmed down in the second half and opened up a 13-point lead at one point, the largest of the game.

After scoring only 25 points in the first half, NSU's defense led to an offensive attack that put up 42 in the second half.

"We were able to do some things defensively that we've been working on since day one," Graf said. "We were able to rotate some. We've got to be able to rotate sooner."

The Lady Demons held OBU to only 31 percent shooting for the game.

Although NSU had only eight fast break points, the defense turned into an offensive game inside the paint.

The Lady Demons scored 34 of their 67 points inside the lane.

A'Laeshia Adams led OBU with 10 points, the only Lady Tiger in double-digit scoring.

The Lady Demons begin regular season play Friday when they visit San Diego, Calif. to battle San Diego State at 9 p.m.

NSU's first home game is Nov. 18 when Southern University visits Prather Coliseum in a doubleheader beginning at 5:45 p.m.

The men's team hosts East Texas Baptist University following the women's game, allowing students to earn double Demon Rewards' points.

Women's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 14	San Diego State	9 p.m.
Nov. 18	**Southern**	**5:45 p.m.**
Nov. 23	Miss. State	2 p.m.
Nov. 29	**Southern Ark.**	**2 p.m.**
Dec. 1	**Centenary**	**5:45 p.m.**

Bold - denotes home game

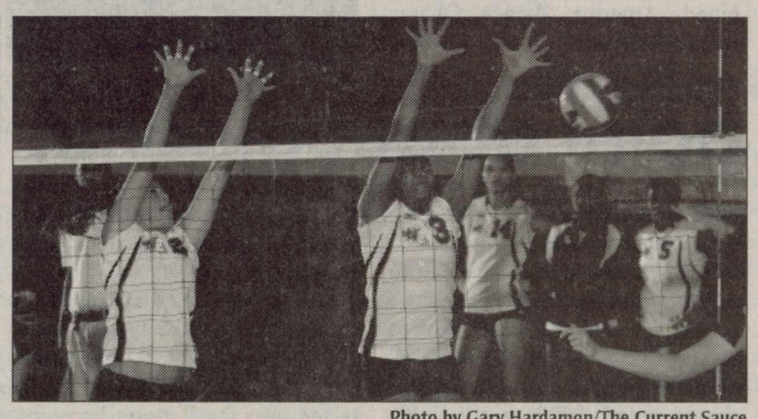


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Markie Robichau (2) and Megan Manning (3) go up for a block during a straight set loss to Stephen F. Austin.

Volleyball team stumbles late in season

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU volleyball team seemed to have things heading in the right direction after winning its last three home games, but a senior-led Stephen F. Austin State University team and a McNeese State team ended the three match-winning streak.

The Lady Demons lost in straight sets to the Southland Conference East Division leader Stephen F. Austin State Thursday.

Yelena Enwere led the team in kills with 11, and Markie Robichau was a close second with eight.

Megan Manning and Zanny Castillo both had double-digit digs, with 12 and 10 respectively. Megan Dockery led the way in assists with 24.

The team managed only a .000 hitting percentage compared to the .354 put up by the Lady Jacks.

"SFA looked like a veteran, well-coached team playing on Senior Night should," Lady Demon coach Brittany Uffelman told NSU's Sports Information Department. "We did not play well. We did not pay attention to details, and it got away from us because of that.

The last time the Lady Demons and Cowgirls met NSU had the upper hand with a three set to two victory on Sept. 25.

However, this go-round for the Lady Demons did not yield the same outcome, losing to McNeese State three sets to none.

For the second straight match, Enwere led the Lady Demons in kills with 11. Robichau was the only Lady Demon to score double-digit digs with 11, while Manning led in assists with 32.

The NSU Lady Demon volleyball team is holding onto the last spot to enter into the Southland Conference Tournament by two games over Southeastern Louisiana University.

NSU still has two more games left on the docket before the tournament begins on Nov. 21.

Before the tournament the Lady Demons still have to get through Lamar University and Sam Houston State.

The Lady Demons record is now at 10-14 overall and 5-9 in SLC play.

Season ends on sour note

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU soccer team found itself in an all-too-familiar spot on its way home from the Southland Conference Tournament in Lake Charles: riding home after a 1-0 loss to the University of Texas San-Antonio in the first round.

This loss marks the fifth one of the season and the third straight for the Lady Demons by a score of 1-0. Each of the losses came to SLC opponents.

"We've been in so many of these close games this season," head coach Jimmy Mitchell told the Sports Information Department of NSU. "And it just seems like we could never catch a break."

The Lady Demons managed only four shots on goal, while the Lady Roadrunners had nine.

The lone goal for UTSA came in the 71st minute when Erin Mackay found the back of the net off a corner kick that was deflected off an NSU defender.

Backup goalkeeper Amanda Vines had eight saves in relief for the injured Lindy Strahan. Strahan was selected to the First Team All-SLC.

"I knew Amanda would come through," Mitchell told Sports Information. "I had no doubts that she would be able to make the saves. I had a feeling that she would rise to the occasion, and I think she did."

The Lady Demons had their chances to score. Late in the first half, Maddy Hall had a shot on goal that bounced off the right goal post.

Early in the second half senior forward Kayce Shultz had a shot on goal that looked as if it were going in only to be stopped at the last second by UTSA goalkeeper Nicoline Joergensen.

The last scoring opportunity for the Lady Demons came only minutes after Shultz's, when Missy Oakley hooked a pass from Kayla King to miss the net by a matter of inches.

"We had our opportunities," Mitchell said to SID. "We had the shot hit off the post in the first half, then had the shot by Kayce in the second half that we thought for sure it was going to be a goal."

With the season over, the Lady Demons look to regroup for next season, as they have holes to fill due to losing six key players.

Men's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 15	Indiana	6 p.m.
Nov. 18	**E. TX. Baptist**	**7:45 p.m.**
Nov. 21-29	LSU Tourney	TBA
Dec. 1	**Centenary**	**7:45 p.m.**
Dec. 6	Miami (OH)	7 p.m.
Dec. 13	**LSU-S**	**4 p.m.**
Dec. 17	Grambling	7 p.m.

Bold - denotes home game

Bears break down Demons in first place battle

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The University of Central Arkansas Bears burst the Northwestern State Demons' bubble of sitting alone atop the Southland Conference standings after a blistering 42-6 defeat in Conway, Ark.

Central Arkansas (8-2) entered the game ranked 16th in the country, according to a poll by sportsnetwork.com.

The Demons (6-4) were not far behind, ranked 28th in the same poll.

NSU struck the scoreboard first on a 41-yard field goal by senior kicker Robert Weeks midway through the first quarter.

Weeks' field goal broke NSU's record of career field goals made.

Weeks added the final points for the Demons in the second quarter on a 45-yard field goal.

With his second field goal, Weeks passed former running Derrick Johnese (2002-2004) for NSU's career scoring record.

The rest of the Demon offense, however, never found its rhythm.

Senior running back Byron Lawrence's streak of nine straight Southland Conference 100-yard rushing games ended. Lawrence finished with 56 yards on 19 carries, bringing his season total to 976.

Quarterbacks Drew Branch and John Hundley combined for 20-39 for 199 yards. Branch threw two interceptions.

"When you don't do what you're coached to do, it's hard to win a football game," head coach Scott Stoker said. "We weren't ready, obviously, for the magnitude of this football game."

The Purple Swarm defense surrendered 495 yards, allowing three first-half touchdown passes by UCA quarterback Nathan Brown.

The Bears scored 14 points in each of the first three quarters, cruising to a one-game lead in the SLC standings.

"You're playing in their backyard," Stoker said. "Everything is comfortable to them. You've got their fans here. It's a struggle. You really have to concentrate and execute."

The Demons' special teams continued to struggle, allowing more than 40 yards per kickoff return, giving the Bears' explosive offense great field position.

The Demons return home Saturday for Senior Day to face one of its biggest rivals, the McNeese State Cowboys.

It will be the second straight weekend the Demons play a ranked opponent.

Both teams enter the game 3-2 in conference, tied for second along with Texas State.

McNeese comes into Turpin Stadium with a 6-3 record, looking for its third straight conference title.

"Well it's obviously a huge football game," Stoker said. "With a lot still on the line, their backs are against the wall. Our backs are against the wall. We are going to have to play a lot better than we've played."

A conference championship is still in the picture for the Demons.

If NSU wins its final two games, and UCA loses its final two games, Northwestern State will have its first conference title since 2004.

NSU hosts the Cowboys Saturday in the home finale at 6 p.m.

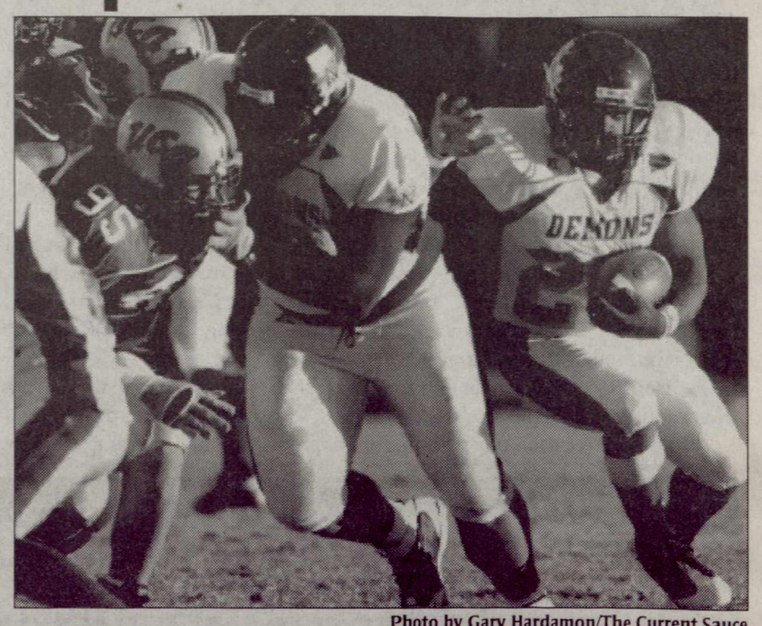


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Senior running back Byron Lawrence (22) pounds the ball behind his offensive line in the Demons' 42-6 loss against UCA.

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 14

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NSU theatre presents a love story during apartheid in South Africa.

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Student can't stand pre-mature jingle bells.

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Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Weather

Wednesday 69°/44°

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Reduced scholarships redirect $3,000

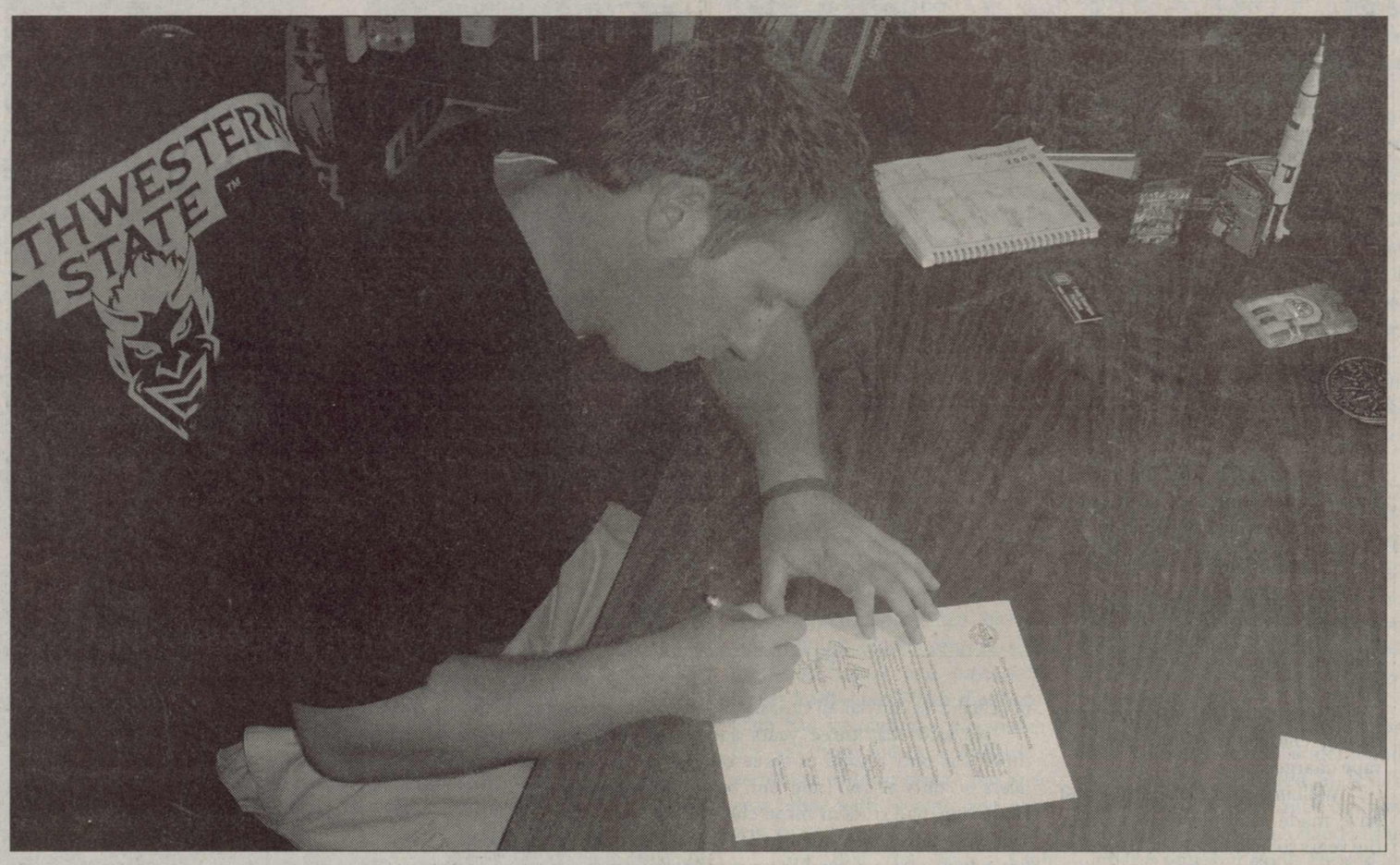


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

SGA President Cody Bourque signs a newly passed bill that will decrease the amount of scholarship money given to the organization's executive board. Bourque said he hopes the new scholarship system will take effect next semester.

David Royal
News Editor

The Student Government Association approved a bill Monday to reduce the future scholarship amount given to the organization's executive board – the president, vice president and treasurer – by about $3,000.

Currently, SGA President Cody Bourque said the scholarship he receives waives him of paying tuition, room and board, student fees and a $900 meal plan.

The total scholarship he received this semester equals about $4,500, Bourque said.

Bourque said in the present system, vice president Mark Daniels earns two-thirds of Bourque's scholarship, and treasurer Lauren Michel earns one-half.

By as soon as the spring semester, however, the members of the executive board will only receive a set salary, Michel said.

The new policy will entail that $3,000 be given to the president, $2,000 to the vice president and $1,000 to the treasurer.

Bourque explained that the executive board decided to reduce the scholarships. He said by giving less money to the executive board, the organization will be able to plan for a more secure budget in the future and will be able to use the extra money toward needed office supplies, free prizes for students and projects.

"That's a huge chunk of our money that can be used in so many places," Bourque said. Although he said he does not think it is feasible for all organizations on campus, Bourque said the new payment system is right for the SGA.

"I'm not saying all organizations should go to a salary basis, but that is what works best for us now," Bourque said.

SGA adviser Yonna Pasch said, however, she is not completely sold on the new system.

Although the present executive board is content with giving up their earned money to the student body, Pasch asked whether future members of the board would agree with the decision.

"I applaud their efforts, however, these are leadership positions that are worked for, and students in those positions deserve the benefits," Pasch said.

Pasch said she wishes the executive board would have looked for other ways to help students.

"There are other ways to give back to the students other than money," Pasch said.

Pasch said she believed instead of taking such a big step, the SGA could have better budgeted what the organization already has in order to prevent money from being taken from the executive board.

Pasch explained that one possible solution could have come from the Student Self Assessed Fee Oversight Committee.

The committee is looking to obtain more funding through student fees from what are now considered Internet students, which would be almost equal to what the SGA would be receiving from the reduced scholarships, Pasch said.

She said the SGA could have possibly used the funding from the additional student fees, instead of giving a decreased salary to the executive board.

"It's good the execs are humble, but the big picture should also be looked at," Pasch said. "But what's done is done."

Bourque said he understands where Pasch is coming from, but added that if in the future senators or executive members decide that the salary system is not working effectively for the organization, then it can still be changed.

Despite a lengthy discussion over the bill in their Monday meeting, almost all the SGA senators supported the executive members' proposal with only one vote against the bill and three abstentions, according to the report provided by SGA secretary Cassie Cannon.

"I never thought it would be this hard to give away money," vice president Daniels said in reference to the back-and-forth discussion.

SGA senator Patrick Brooks said the decision was simple for him.

Although he was open to the other senators' opinions, Brooks said he essentially knew before the discussion began that he supported the bill.

"I feel like the SGA is in need of the money, point blank," Brooks said.

Brooks added that if he ever decides to try to become an executive member in the future, he will still feel comfortable with the amount of money he will be given.

"My needs will still be met with what execs will be given," Brooks said.

When asked, some students had varying opinions concerning the SGA's recent decision.

Elisha Ibanga, a sophomore political science major, said the SGA made an admirable decision, but said he can also see why some would be upset that they are losing money.

"I understand why you wouldn't want to give away any free money; however, if you have an excess... it's the right thing to do to use it to help improve things," Ibanga said.

Louis Weldon III, a sophomore business administration major, said he slightly disagrees with Ibanga.

"I believe they should've looked into other ways to get money, but ultimately if the senators want to give away their money, then it is their choice," Weldon said.

Bourque explained there are two factors that could prevent the new bill from taking effect next semester.

First, if a senator interprets that the bill is a change to the SGA's constitution, the change would then need to be approved by the student body.

Because the bill concerns fiscal affairs, the second road block could come from the NSU Supreme Court because those types of changes can only take effect a year later.

Front Street renovations completed just in time

Business owners experience effects of recently opened roadway

Spencer Pearson
Sauce Reporter

As the renovations came to an end on Front Street, businesses are optimistic about the updated road.

The new look includes renovated benches, new sidewalks, improvements on drainage and infrastructure underneath the road and a less bumpy Front Street.

The biggest downside of the construction was the drop in sales of many of the businesses on Front Street, which was mainly attributed to a decrease in traffic and a lack of parking spaces during the renovations.

Sales dropped for Phyllis Stroud, owner of a local toy store, as soon as construction started. Although the drop in sales was apparent, she still thought the work was a good idea.

"I felt like it was a good thing overall, and that the roads needed to be redone...It's a historic community, and we need to keep it well preserved," Stroud said.

Kaffie-Frederick Hardware owner Luke Frederick also saw a drop in business during the construction, even with an extra parking lot to encourage customers to shop.

"With all of the construction, not only with the street but next door to us as well, it became a hassle for people to come downtown. Our regular customer base, being local folks, kind of kept away from the area because it was a hassle," Frederick said.

While many business owners noticed declining sales due to the construction in front of their stores, they said they understood the situation and saw the change simply as a part of business.

For Stroud, business is picking up, and sales are higher compared to last year at the same time, she said.

Other business owners didn't even notice any effects from the construction and said they were happy about the improvements, and Louisiana Purchase owner Brian Hicks was one of these people.

"The street's better for it," Hicks said. "It looks better, better sidewalks, better seating arrangements... The cars ride better, it's all nicer."

Brenda Self, owner of Brenda's Clothing Store, like many of the owners, thinks that tourists will also appreciate the work.



Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

An employee at Kaffie-Frederick Hardware rings up a piece of merchandise for a customer. The hardware store is located on Front Street, and the store has seen an increase in business since the opening of the tourist attraction.

"I think someone coming to town for the first time would be impressed with how Front Street looks, whether or not they know about the renovations," Self said.

Even with the hassle, many business owners were content with how they were treated during the construction. Frederick was particularly impressed.

"The City was also very helpful in allowing us to place temporary signage in the historic district," he said. "I think everybody was very accommodating and did everything they could to make sure the impact was as minimal as possible."

As the construction to the road comes to an end, all of the store owners share one sentiment – relief.

David Royal
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'Community police' reduces NSU crime rate

David Royal
News Editor

In their records that are released annually to the public, the NSU University Police reported a drastic decline in the university's crime rate in 2007.

According to the report published in NSU's 2008-2009 Student Handbook, the number of total thefts, burglaries, batteries and drug offenses in 2007 was the lowest it had been since 2003 – the last year provided in the handbook.

Additionally, there were no charges for homicides, robberies, suicides, arson or vehicle theft.

University Police Chief Rickie Williams said he is proud of the work his officers are doing, and he is not surprised by the positive results.

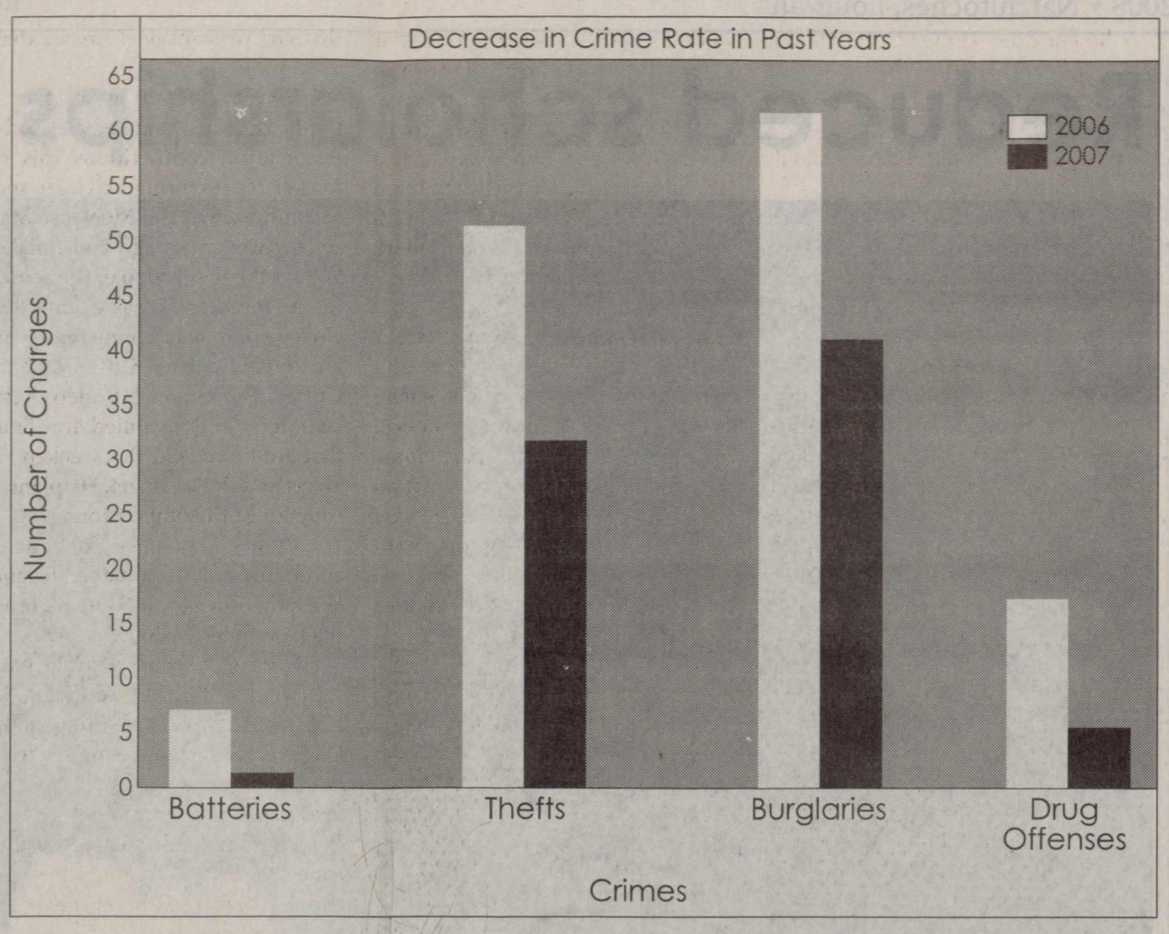
From 2006 to 2007, the report showed the number of both thefts and burglaries had dropped by 19, batteries by four and drug offenses by 12.

The only increase in crime rate in 2007 was in vandalism and rape charges, with each increasing by one.

There were 20 reported vandalism charges and two reported rape charges.

Williams said he and his staff have made multiple changes over the years to help bring the campus's crime rate down, and he said he believes they have been successful.

Williams said he credits the drop in crime to the large number of officers on duty at all times.



He said that three years ago there was only a total of three officers on duty at one time, and because they had student dispatchers that were unreliable, one of the officers had to be assigned to answer phones rather than patrol the campus.

Because of funding provided by the university, Williams said the department now has five officers and properly trained government employees who fill the dispatcher positions.

Now that the department is adequately staffed, the officers are able to do their jobs effectively, Williams said.

Williams said another contributor to the improved crime rate is the addition of department's golf carts, segways and bicycles.

"We can really hide and sneak around with these, which helps us catch people if they're trying to break into a car or something like that," Williams said.

Most importantly, however, Williams said the new modes of transportation allow the creation of "community police."

Williams explained the concept of community police by saying that before the time of Henry Ford and the motorized vehicle, police simply walked the same beat in his community.

This allowed the officer to truly familiarize himself with the area and the people of the community and the people to do the same with the officer.

Williams said Henry Ford and automotives messed this up, however. For the most part, police do not have much face time with the members of the community unless they are being given a ticket or being arrested, and trust is no longer built between the officers and the community, he said.

The officers are now making a stronger effort to "increase visibility," Det. Doug Prescott of the NSU police said.

With the bicycles and other new transportation, the officers are finding out and addressing student needs, which in turn makes things easier for both the police and students, Prescott said.

"We appreciate the assistance we're getting from the students and hope it will continue in the future," Prescott said.

Both Williams and Prescott agreed that they expect the crime rate for 2008 to also show a continued improvement.

Prescott said the 2008 records should be published by May 2009.

University green initiative picks up speed

NSU's plan to be eco-friendly progresses in different departments

Chris Watts
Sauce Reporter

The NSU Green Advisory Board met for the first time Tuesday to discuss ways the university can further its green initiative.

The Advisory Board consists of 18 administrators, faculty and students and will meet regularly each semester to discuss ways NSU could perform in a more eco-friendly manner, service learning coordinator Steve Gruesbeck said.

"The committee is interested in exploring ways NSU could behave in a more green way," Gruesbeck said.

Many elements of the green initiative have been put on hold due to pending requests for proposals for an energy conservation contract, Gruesbeck said.

The contract would allow vendors from the private sector who deal in eco-friendly products to visit campus and make recommendations regarding energy conservation at NSU.

The businesses would work with students to reach conclusions that would best fit the school.

"As far as NSU's concerned, we've done everything on our side," Gruesbeck said. "The requests are in Baton Rouge right now being reviewed by attorneys before being shared with the private industry."

Gruesbeck predicts the proposals to be released and private industries to take action as early as fall 2009.

The vendors will be paid over time with the money they have saved the university through eco-friendly recommendations.

In the meantime, faculty and students have been working hand-in-hand to push the green initiative.

Students taking Communication 3120 Group Dynamics have been spending the semester researching ways to get the school to go green.

The class's professor, John Foster, uses the class to give students meaningful projects that will have a lasting impression on the campus, as well as on their resumes.

"I like to present the students with a project and let them think about it and develop it into their own," Foster said.

In the past, Foster's students have worked with Habitat for Humanity and upgraded restrooms to be more accessible by those with physical disabilities.

"We've spent the semester contacting different companies such as Johnson & Johnson, GM and Tella, and asking for donations or any other ways they can help," senior hospitality, management and tourism major Lindsey Fredieu said.

Tella is a Houston-based company that produces energy-conserving windows.

Fredieu and her project group have also been coordinating a carnival for fall 2009. The carnival would be downtown on Cane River and feature live music, rides and information booths with representatives from manufacturers such as Johnson & Johnson.

"We want to have the carnival, so we can let NSU and the community know we're trying to go green in a fun way," Fredieu said.

Foster's students will present NSU President Randall J. Webb with their ideas on Dec. 2.

"It's important students find ways like this to effectively communicate with the administration," Gruesbeck said.

The Student Activities Board has driven several of its own initiatives, including Service Day on Oct. 22. Service day consisted of a canned food drive, several fundraisers and a recycling dropoff in the Friedman Student Union ballroom.

The canned food drive raised more than 3,000 cans, which the SAB donated to local organizations, according to Service Day coordinator and SAB service learning committee head Robin Williams, asenior liberal arts major.

"I was most impressed with the results from the recycling dropoff," Williams said.

Williams also said she was impressed with how many on-campus offices are saving up paper to recycle, which just goes to show how much the green initiative is impacting the university.

NSU also helped Natchitoches raise more than 350 lbs of aluminum cans in October's Keep America Beautiful Contest.

Gruesbeck calls NSU's contribution a "great sign."

"The city will be adopting its own recycling program, and NSU will play a major part in that," Gruesbeck said.

Gruesbeck encourages NSU classes and organizations to adopt service-learning projects to raise awareness about the recycling program.

"Disseminating information and awareness campaigns are keys to a successful recycling program, and that's where service learning comes into play," Gruesbeck said.

"It really takes everyone working together," he said. "We have to market it aggressively."

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The *Argus*, NSU's award-winning art and literary magazine, is currently accepting submissions for this year's issue. The Argus will consider poetry, fiction and photography submissions for publication.
The deadline is Nov. 21.

For more information, contact the staff at nsuargus@gmail.com or search for the NSULA Argus Facebook group.



Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

A 6-inch waterline located behind Boozman Hall began leaking sometime early Monday morning, Bill Rutledge of Rutledge Plumbing said. Rutledge said his crew began working on the site around 7 a.m. He said the water cannot be shut off, so Rutledge Plumbing must work with a constant stream of water pulsing until the problem is fixed. Rutledge predicted the pipe was probably placed sometime in the 1950s.

Leigh Gentry
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November 19, 2008

Rodeo Club suffers from lack of funds

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

Codie Poe wakes up every morning at 6 a.m. to feed and give water to his six horses and 15 practice calves.

He travels about 15 minutes from Provencal to NSU, where he takes 18 hours toward an accounting degree. After his classes, which go from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Poe makes it back home to first study or do homework. Then he saddles about four or five horses to practice his specialty – calf roping – in the outdoor practice arena outside of his parents' house for about two or three hours.

Poe's weekday routine ends when he gives food and water to his horses and practice calves again for the night. He spends his weekends competing at collegiate and amateur rodeos – a different weekend, a different rodeo.

"It's all you think about, and it's all you want to do, and it's all you're concerned with," Poe, a freshman, said when describing his mindset toward rodeoing.

Poe was last year's Louisiana Rodeo Cowboy Association's Rookie of the Year, placed second as his year-end standing for LRCA and placed in the top four calf-ropers at the High School National Finals in New Mexico.

He also made about $25,000 in winnings last year and anticipates making closer to $30,000 this year – not your average after-school job income.

Now in the collegiate circuit, Poe competes as a member of the NSU Rodeo Club, which has been a student organization for about 20 years. Poe is one of two members who eat, sleep and breathe rodeo.

Daniel Brister, a senior industrial engineering major, steer wrestles, but he is taking more of a backseat to Poe in the club because he wants to focus more on school. Even without steadily participating in rodeos this year, he's just as passionate about it as when he was hardcore into rodeoing for NSU when he was a freshman.

"There's rodeo and school, and that's it," Brister said. "I mean, that's what we live for."



Courtesy Photo

Codie Poe, a freshman accounting major at NSU, ropes a calf at a rodeo competition.

Poe competed in all five of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association competitions this semester representing NSU. He took second place at the McNeese State rodeo two weeks ago and finished 10th at the first rodeo of the semester at Northeast Texas Community College. Poe also competes in two amateur circuits – LRCA and the United Professional Rodeo Association – and qualified for finals that are to be held this weekend in Texas and in Louisiana. He plans to rope for both competitions.

Brister, on the other hand, competes only in amateur leagues since the Rodeo Club lost its funding from NSU in 2005.

"That's probably another main reason that I'm not rodeoing for Northwestern. Good thing about Codie is they have the money to do that. You see, we don't. I can't afford to go," Brister said.

Poe and Brister described rodeo expenses as entry fees per competition, diesel, renting stalls for their horses and paying for trailer hook-ups. When the Rodeo Club had its own specific student fee – $1 from full-time students – members would present the business office with receipts and were reimbursed.

Now that the Rodeo Club falls under the overall fee of "club sports," it shares the account with all other club sports at NSU. The club can still present the business office with receipts from an event, but the office may or may not agree to reimburse the members for all of the expenses.

Alan Sypert, an NSU alumnus and former SGA president, was over club sports while serving in SGA during the time the Rodeo Club's fee was cut. He said the Student Self-Assessed Fee Oversight Committee observed the Rodeo Club for a year, and the club was not very active in that time.

Sypert said the committee rationalized that since there were dozens of other club sports that did not have their own specific fee – and the only other specified fee was going to the crew team that was very active and well-organized – the Rodeo Club was not active enough to carry the fee. The money that was left in the Rodeo Club account after it was terminated was then transferred to the club sports account, as ordered by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Jack Pace, associate professor of biological science and faculty adviser for the Rodeo Club, said they did have a pretty drastic drop in members around the time the agriculture program was dropped as a department at NSU because most of its members at the time were agriculture majors.

Pace said he gets calls all the time from high school students and their parents interested in NSU's rodeo team. He has turned down at least seven people interested in the club this semester alone. He said he breaks the news to them about the uncertainty of funding and understands if they go to McNeese, the only other school in Louisiana with a rodeo team.

College rodeo is a large and highly competitive sport, although Pace said some people might have the wrong idea about it. The participants are regular students with normal degrees and couldn't be picked out of the crowd in any way, Pace said. They just went with a very strenuous extracurricular activity.

"This is not your tobacco-chewing, broad-hat wearing stereotypical rodeo we're talking about," Pace said. "The participants are students, and there are rules they have to follow."

Registered members of the NIRA must have a 2.0 GPA and be in good standing with the university while taking at least 12 hours. Students have six years after their high school graduation to become members of the NIRA to compete in saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping and goat tying.

NSU competes in the southern circuit, which also includes McNeese, Panola Junior College, Sam Houston State University, Steven F. Austin State University and Texas A&M University.

Poe will continue to compete in the collegiate circuit next semester, but Brister is not sure when he'll start competing in the amateur rodeos again because school is his top priority.

Both Poe and Brister take the time and energy to compete in collegiate and amateur rodeos as stepping stones toward becoming professional rodeo cowboys.

"It's just a dream we have, and one day it will become a reality," Brister said.

For the full story, visit our Web site.

Students consider safety on Thanksgiving break

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

Friday is the day NSU students have been waiting for since the end of fall break.

It begins a week of fun, relaxation and the opportunity to take a short vacation from school before finals. It's a week of sleeping in until noon without being counted absent from class, eating turkey with all the trimmings, spending time with family and friends, watching football games and getting to stores for the best holiday prices before everyone else on Black Friday.

But before students pack their vehicles and salute the campus farewell for a week, they may take a few safety precautions to ensure a pleasant return. Collegesafe.com provides a safety checklist of techniques students can use. The first tip on the list could make a big difference if forgotten – lock all doors and windows before leaving any residence.

The site also suggests closing the blinds and curtains to ensure that no one can see inside. Another tip is to remove all valuable items – such as jewelry, computer, stereo systems and televisions – from the residence.

The National Campus Safety Awareness Web site includes safety procedures for Internet use.

The site warns people to be careful about what they post online, especially on Facebook and Myspace, because users can never be sure of who is viewing their personal information.

For those who are staying on campus during the break, there are extra tips to follow. The Web site advises to travel in groups of two or more at night and always walk in well-lit, heavily traveled areas.

When going out, a student should let someone know where he or she is going and when he or she plans to be back, according to the site. Students should always lock their cars and keep valuables out of sight. Students should not prop open campus building doors, especially residential buildings, according to the Web site.

Even though many students plan on leaving during the break, residential assistants will be available at University Columns and University Place Phases I and II for residents who need them.

Brandon Buckley, assistant director of Residential Life, says RAs are given an equal amount of holiday time but will be at each residence hall to assist students who are still on campus.

In an effort to bring higher safety awareness to campus, Jack Atherton, along with NSU President Randall J. Webb and Tim Cunningham, attended a conference by the Louisiana Campus Compact on Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

Atherton, an assistant professor of criminal justice, said that the "wheels are in motion" on the development of the program, but he is not sure what shape the program will be in or who will be responsible for it.

Atherton said the goal is to eventually have an effective CERT program at NSU, which will eventually extend off campus into the surrounding community.

"The first responder to an emergency is not an ambulance or fire truck, but it is a citizen," Atherton said. "This campus is not unique. If there is an emergency and we only have one fire station here to respond, what happens if you need help and there is no one to help you? That's where CERT comes in."

As the hours seem to slowly pass and Thanksgiving break grows near, many officials say safety is a priority and should be practiced to ensure that the return to college life will be a smooth transition.

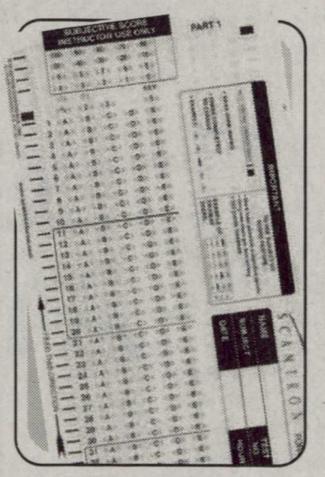
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November 19, 2008



Courtesy Photo

The 2008 Miss Black and Gold pageant winners claim their prizes onstage in A.A. Fredericks auditorium. Cheryl Lewis (center) won the crown and title.

Miss Black and Gold pageant kicks off Alpha Week

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

Last week was Alpha Week, and the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha turned out seven days of fun and philanthropy.

The Miss Black and Gold Pageant kicked off Alpha Week Nov. 9 in the A.A. Fredericks auditorium. Comprising nine ladies, the pageant was the result of nearly two months of preparation.

Walking away with the title was Cheryl Lewis, a sophomore psychology major. Lewis will go on to compete in a regional pageant.

"I've never been in a pageant before," Lewis said. "It was a lot of work, and there is more to come. I'll have to keep up with my diet and stuff, but it was good to be a part of."

Derrick Houston, a junior secondary education major, coordinated the event. He proudly explained that though there were glitches leading up to the pageant, everything came off nicely.

"I'm glad with the event and the way things turned out," Houston said. "We had a few problems along the way, but this was one of the best Miss Black and Gold Pageants."

In keeping with their train station theme, the train of Alpha Week's next stop was the Friedman Student Union. The brothers accepted donations for the March of Dimes fund for premature babies Nov. 10. They stressed to the participants the importance of supporting the affected families.

Later that day, the brothers gathered at the Martin Luther King Center to help youngsters with their homework in support of the Boys and Girls Club of America. To end the day there was an informational regarding the fraternity that evening for prospective members.

The next day was dedicated to the ladies. The brothers passed out yellow roses representing their trademark colors – black and gold. Later that evening, the Alphas held a celebration in the Union ballroom with facials and hand and foot rubs sponsored by the ladies of Mary Kay. The brothers also highlighted the benefits of tobacco-free living and health awareness.

Midweek the brothers gathered at 7 a.m. to clean up Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. After a long morning of cleaning, there was a block party, which led to the ultimate entertainment – the dodgeball tournament.

For $5 per team, students could engage in goodhearted fun and financially support the fraternity. Held in the Health and Human Performance building, the tournament yielded a substantial turnout as well as a workout for participating students. Next the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha hosted a party with the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi to bridge the gap between the National Pan-Hellenic Council of Historically Black Greek Organizations and the Panhellenic Council.

"I really enjoyed myself," freshman psychology major Katie Rockwell said. "The Alphas stepping was awesome."

Friday the brothers held a comedy/talent show in the Union ballroom and opened the floor to all students of all classes to showcase their talents. Finally, to prepare for the football game versus McNeese State University, the Alphas held a tailgate at the NSU tennis courts. After the game, the brothers hosted a show-stopping party featuring the G-Spot Boyz who performed their hit "Do Da Stanky Leg."

"I thoroughly enjoyed Alpha Week," freshman biology major DaMeisha Anthony said. "It was a good way to get to know other students, and now I have a newfound interest in Greek life."

Powwow presentation draws crowd

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor

Students, faculty, community members and a Boy Scout troop gathered at the Watson Library Monday night to attend a Native American Awareness Day presentation.

The event celebrated Native American culture and featured a presentation on powwows and the traditions surrounding them.

Pete Gregory, professor of anthropology and faculty adviser of the Native American student organization, said November is Native American Heritage Month.

"The Multicultural Office asked us to do something to raise awareness for Native American culture in the area," Gregory explained.

The presentation, an informational slideshow complete with background music from ceremonial Native American dances, was presented by the president of the Native American Cultural Association, Michael Ashworth.

"The focus was on Native American culture and understanding," Ashworth said after the presentation.

Powwows, Ashworth explained, are a central element of Native American culture. A powwow is a Native American gathering that often features dancing. Ashworth even demonstrated a few traditional moves during the slideshow presentation.

After the presentation, the audience of Native American Awareness Day took advantage of the refreshments, cookies and soda, and looked at some of the traditional Native American clothing on display in the library.

Check out an online exclusive about Zeta Phi Beta's Speed Dating night at our official Web site, thecurrentsauce.com.

NSU theatre presents play with poignant themes

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

The NSU theatre department presented "My Children! My Africa!" – a play about romance, education and apartheid – to their family, friends and fellow students Nov. 12-15 in Theatre West.

The cast will also be presenting the play Nov. 18-21, for those who missed this great production and those who wish to see it again.

The play is about a teacher named Mr. M. (David Sylvester Jr.), his favorite student, Thami (Reshad Horton) and a more fortunate girl named Isabel (Elizabeth Bigger) who team up to form a literacy debate team.

In the process, Isabel and Thami not only discover a mutual love of literature, but also an unspoken love for each other.

When apartheid in South Africa threatens to destroy their bond, Thami and Isabel must make a decision on how to respond to it. In this play -- written by South African playwright Athol Fugard – these decisions will either strengthen their bond or obliterate it.

Michael Jerome Johnson, a guest professor at NSU, directed the play. He said he was surprised by the political relevance of the plot.

"It's nothing more than a love story," Johnson said. "When I chose this story last January, the presidential campaign wasn't in mind. Obama wasn't on my mind. It's a nice parallel."

Mr. M.'s hope, as well as Barack Obama's hope, is for a change.

"My Children! My Africa!" was Johnson' second chance to work with NSU's theatre department. Last fall, he taught as a guest professor and directed a play as well.

Though Johnson said he truly enjoyed working with this cast, he said it was difficult to get them to learn the South African accents.

"They're all eager to learn and work hard," Johnson said. "No one is a slacker. They try to do better and better. You can't ask for more than that."

The cast's experience behind the scenes was even greater than their stage experience.

For more about the cast's perspective, view the full version of this story online.

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Joe Cunningham
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November 19, 2008

OPINIONS

Half the Battle: Claus Conquers

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



It's the week before Thanksgiving, and I've had a lot of people ask me what I'm thankful for. After pondering for a few days, I came up with an answer.

I'm thankful for the people who remembered there is a holiday between Halloween and Christmas.

Seriously, if you have Christmas decorations up right now, we are not friends.

Thanksgiving is an American holiday, just as important as the Fourth of July, but you don't care. It's all about the snowmen, presents and vertically challenged slave labor at the North Pole to you.

Santa Claus is an unstoppable invader. He stood victorious over burning pumpkin pies and broken cornucopias, but he is hungry for more. He currently stands poised to take Halloween. I just know he is.

You see, the day after Halloween, Wal-Mart erected a large, fully decorated Christmas tree. Many retailers began sending out catalogs with Christmas sales and prices.

The armies of Claus have arrived.

Already, we see Charlie Brown and his pathetic little Christmas twig on TV. I think Jacob Marley has visited Scrooge 12 or 13 times in various classrooms around the nation. For God's sake, I know every word to the Pokemon Christmas specials!

What happened to the magic of Thanksgiving?

`We used to love coming together and eating our weight in stuffing and cranberry sauce alone. Now, we skim over the feast to get to Christmas as quickly as possible.

Thanksgiving celebrates the first successful harvest for the pilgrims, who had just come to America. In a moment of true brotherhood, the Indians helped them with their farming.

At no point during the feast did one of the pilgrims stand up and say "Thanks for dinner, but I have to go to bed early so I can hit the big sales tomorrow morning!"

Post-Thankgiving sales are, quite possibly, the most brutal blood sport in the history of the world. Imagine hundreds of people crammed into a few toy aisles in Wal-Mart, battling it out over a two dollar Barbie.

Let the chaos commence.

I have seen fistfights over a season of "Grey's Anatomy," arguments over Optimus Prime and, strangely, blood spilled over cheap towels.

Is this the meaning of Christmas? Chaos and bloodshed, all for the sake of gain? No.

Christmas is a time to sit under the Christmas tree, give each other gifts and watch the Grinch once again try to steal Christmas.

But most importantly, Christmas belongs in December.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university.

All submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters the editor are welcome from anyone.

All submissions become property of The Current Sauce.

Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Racism prevalent even after election

Tiffany Thomas
Guest Columnist



People are wondering if racism is dead now that there is a black president elect. In my opinion, no. It is on the rise.

Yes, there are prejudices of all kinds, but I want to specifically deal with racism. I don't believe racism is dead because racism is a type of hatred that is instilled. If anything, having Barack Obama as the president elect stirs the pot of racism.

In October, two conspirators, Daniel Cowart and Paul Schlesselman, were arrested in Tennessee and charged with possession of firearms, threats against Obama and conspiring to rob a gun store. The two also had plans to shoot 88 black Americans and decapitate 14. Both these numbers are considered symbolic by white supremacists, according to telegraph.co.uk.

Investigating ATF agent Brian Weaks said after Cowart and Schlesselman had enacted their killing spree, "They further stated that their final act of violence would be to attempt to kill/assassinate presidential candidate Barack Obama."

The two young men met on the Internet and bonded over their "strong beliefs regarding White Power and Skinhead views."

This same belief or declaration of white power is the same hatred that has caused violent racial crimes of the past and obviously the present.

If that doesn't convince you that racism is on the rise, on Nov. 11 a woman invited to a Ku Klux Klan meeting in rural Louisiana (our very own state) was murdered. The woman was a white victim, but she had traveled to St. Tammany Parish to fellowship with members of the Klan and was killed after a fight broke out when she tried to leave. The woman's mission was to attend the meeting and leave to recruit other members according to AOL news.

Why were these clansmen meeting if racism is dead? I have no doubt they were meeting to commiserate over their hatred of a black president elect.

I also have no doubt that groups such as these will try their best to make attempts on Obama's life.

The death of Martin Luther King Jr. was only 40 years ago. That isn't a very long time ago, and the same spirit of hatred that led to his assassination exists today. Also these supremacists blind themselves to Obama's multiracial heritage and zero in on his African roots.

That is blatant racism. We as Americans created equal cannot sit around and let racism fester and go undiscussed.

Every form of it is ugly whether it is black supremacy or white supremacy. It is intolerable and a reason why there is so much dissension amongst Americans.

St. Tammany Parish Sheriff Jack Strain said upon arresting Raymond "Chuck" Foster, the Klan leader charged with the death of the woman, "The IQ level of this group is not impressive, to be kind. I can't imagine anyone feeling endangered or at risk by any one of these kooks."

After reading that I wanted to go to the bathroom and throw up. How could this sheriff have the nerve to say such a thing? James Earl Ray, who assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., wasn't considered much of a threat by anyone including the King family. However, he admitted to his wife that he did indeed kill King.

It just isn't wise to say that a race of people shouldn't feel endangered by a group that prides itself on hating that race.

I'm also quite sure the victim did not feel endangered since she was amongst those who believed what she believed. Nevertheless, she died. In light of these events I again reiterate that racism is in no way dead.

It is on the rise because more white supremacy groups are meeting and blogging over their mutual hate now that Obama has been elected.

Splcenter.org has discovered posts by white supremacists on the Neo-Nazi Vanguard News Web forum. One poster calling himself Darthvader said, "He [Obama] will make things so bad for white people that hopefully they will finally realize how stupid they were for admiring these jigaboos all these years."

Another unnamed poster replied saying, "White people won't do anything until their toys are taken away and perhaps things will have to get worse in order for them to get better. Perhaps Obama needs to be president in order for white people to see that these Negroes have come too far and run our country into the dirt."

These are the most filthy, misinformed comments I've ever had the displeasure to read.

How can we begin to think racism is dead when the majority of these posters are ages 18-25? Those are the ages of typical college students. I am an advocate of one informing his or herself so I only seek to inform you all.

We need to recognize, black, white, Hispanic, Asian – all, we all need to see that racism exists and it exists strongly, and we need to combat it by striving to persecute these supremacists who allow their hate to manifest into physical violence. We perhaps cannot stop the hate, but we can stand up and call the hatred, evil, injustice and racism out for what it is.

History influences true meaning of Thanksgiving

Bethany Frank
Guest Columnist



In 2007, 11 marching bands, 24 floats, 800 clowns, 1900 performers and 42 giant balloons filled with 400,000 cubic feet led Santa 43 blocks through Manhattan.

The parade, which began in 1924, celebrates its 150th anniversary and marks the beginning of Christmas joys, according to Kathleen Seiler Neary's article, "How the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Words."

But what about Thanksgiving joys?

Thanksgiving, despite some beliefs, is not a Christian holiday or a day set aside to glorify God and His graces.

It's a day about taking time out and being grateful for the gifts life provides.

Thanksgiving is such a beautiful holiday because it isn't swarmed by commercialism. The true meaning can still be found in the daily household.

Families gather together to join the other 44 million television viewers and 2.5 million parade spectators to watch the Macy's Day parade as the turkey roasts in the oven and the final apples are peeled for the pie.

Families put away their daily squabbles to pick at the turkey neck and get swatted as they dip a finger in the mashed potatoes.

They huddle on the couch to watch the never-ending football games or begin marathons of Christmas movies.

Together, America joins in thanksgiving for everything life has given and the ability to overcome all hardships.

Every family falls down. Every individual gets lost.

Thanksgiving provides a day for the individual to join with friends and family and celebrate the ability to stand up after falling and remember that someone is always there to help the lost find a way home.

Thanksgiving is about recognizing the hard times, but realizing that there is always something more.

Each bad moment not only makes people stronger, but also protects them from something worse.

In 1619, 39 English settlers celebrated the first Thanksgiving at the Berkeley Plantation in Virginia after the hardships they endured during their early times, according to "The Origin and History of Thanksgiving."

Things went worse for the settlers, and in 1621 the Pilgrims celebrated the most famous Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Mass.

The Pilgrims were joined by 100 Native Americans for this three-day festival to give thanks to the Native Americans for their help in surviving the harsh winter.

The importance of the holiday went back and forth for centuries, until magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, pushed to reinstate Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1863.

Hale wrote letters and editorials until President Lincoln finally declared the holiday, according to "The Origin and History of Thanksgiving."

He felt the country needed to set aside a day to give thanks 'unto him from who all blessings flow,' according to "The Origin and History of Thanksgiving."

Together, Americans become part of centuries of struggles as they sit down at a Thanksgiving feast. The best silver and china and crystal cover the table as the family engulfs the buffet of turkey, sweet potatoes, cranberries, dressing and pie.

Families join hands in thanksgiving for everything life has offered. Together, families reminisce on the trials and tribulations and the blessings.

Macy's parade may mark the beginning of Christmas joys, but it's during the day of Thanksgiving that families prepare for the bright, merry holiday season.

THE CURRENT SAUCE

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Spirit worth seeking

Devon Drake
Web Editor



School spirit is a phrase I've heard thrown around since my middle school years, ever since sports became a viable school function.

During middle school, I remained fairly impartial and became somewhat bitter toward the school spirited in high school.

I fully expected these feelings to persist throughout college; however, something drastically changed my life: NSU basketball.

I'm not quite sure how I began going to the games, but I'm so glad I did.

The first season of basketball I had ever watched was in 2005-2006, the inspirational season in which Jermaine Wallace sank his infamous shot in the buzzer-beating win against third seed Iowa in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

What I do remember is that day, that amazing day when Jermaine sunk that shot.

I had never truly experienced school spirit up to that point.

The next few days were amazing. The campus seemed to bloom with pride; moreover, people genuinely seemed happier.

The halls of Russell Hall were surprisingly talkative, compared to the relative antisocial atmosphere the College of Business usually greets me with.

This newfound camaraderie made me realize something. School spirit doesn't just affect attendance at sporting events, it affects the ebb and flow of the entire campus.

The pride I saw that spring lubricated the gears of this university, making the lives of students much easier.

The students were more social, the faculty seemed revitalized and the other workers seemed to work harder.

It wasn't because the team had won; it was the pride we drew from that.

Finally, Northwestern had become recognized on a grand scale, and the students were proud to claim their university.

For a few glorious weeks, when you told someone you went to Northwestern, they didn't ask you how the weather was in Illinois, they commented on that amazing comeback victory.

The nation knew us, they saw our determination and hard work come to fruition and they showed us respect.

Ever since my freshman year, I try to attend every game, not necessarily for the game, but to feel that pride one more time before I leave.

Don't forget to visit www.thecurrentsauce.com to check out loads of special features, like online exclusive content, polls and our brand new podcast, the Saucecast! Sign-up to receive our latest issues by e-mail, too!

Sports

Fletcher Jonson
Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editors
November 19, 2008

Demons still in conference title hunt after home loss

Spencer Pearson
Sauce Reporter

The Northwestern State football team was dealt its fifth loss of the season after a hard fought game against McNeese State.

NSU kept the high-powered McNeese offense in check, but were unable to overcome a late offensive surge by the Cowboys.

McNeese scored first with a field goal that bounced on the left upright before going in.

NSU responded with a long drive that featured a 38-yard reception from junior quarterback John Hundley to senior wide receiver Dudley Guice Jr. on 3rd and long. The pass put NSU in scoring position.

NSU finished the drive with a short touchdown run by Hundley.

The Demons then scored a field goal to go up 10-3 in the second quarter.

McNeese responded with a short touchdown run, and the game would stay tied until the fourth quarter when Cowboys' quarterback Derrick Fourroux was able to run for a touchdown. Fourroux ran for three touchdowns, two of which came in the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter runs broke the stalemate and provided a 14-point lead for the Cowboys.

The Demons would score late in the fourth quarter, but a failure to convert an onside kick eventually led to a loss for the Demons.

Cowboys tailback Toddrick Pendland broke McNeese's single season rushing record in the game, which was a record that has been unbroken since 1952. Pendland broke Jules DeRouen's 56-year-old record by eight yards.

NSU is now 6-5, but still not out of contention for first place in the conference.

To win the conference, they need McNeese and Texas State to lose, and they have to win next week at Stephen F. Austin State University.

While senior linebacker Mack Dampier's last home game as a Demon ended in a loss, he was still optimistic.

"It was a great atmosphere, couldn't ask for anything better with everything on the line in a packed house," Dampier said. "It's a good way to go out."

Dampier ended the game with a team-high 11 tackles and one sack. Dampier and the NSU defense held McNeese to 24 points, which is no small feat considering McNeese has averaged more than 40 points a game.

Head Coach Scott Stoker also applauded the efforts of the defense.

"I thought we played well enough defensively, but when you're on the field that long, it's tough to hold an offense down to what their total usually is," Stoker said.

During the second half, the Cowboys offense converted multiple 3rd-and-long downs that kept their offense on the field and kept the Demons defense from resting.

Also, injuries on the offensive line affected NSU's play.

The Demons offense was already playing without their starting lineman Jace Prescott, who was replaced by a true freshman.

After an injury to Michael Booker early in the game, the Demons were forced to use two true freshmen on the line, which had an effect that Stoker noticed.

"Playing two true freshman tackles out there, it's tough in a game like this when you're playing the caliber of competition like McNeese," Stoker said.

While the loss puts Northwestern State in a more difficult position to win the SLC title, it is not impossible. The Demons are now looking ahead to the game against Stephen F. Austin where a win could possibly crown them as SLC Champions.

The Demons and Lumberjacks are set for a 6 p.m. kickoff.

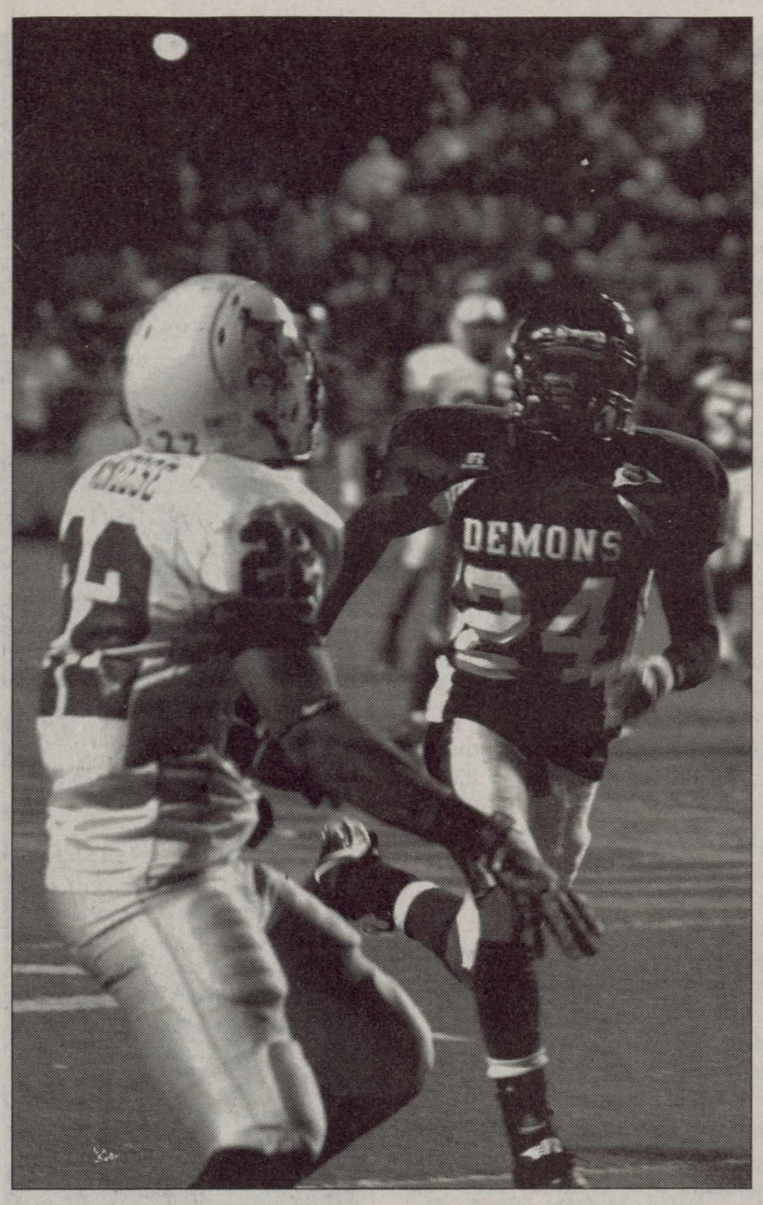


Photo by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce
Freshman defensive back Jeremy Lane (24) and the Purple Swarm defense held the McNeese State offense to 24 points, 16 below its season average in the Demons' 24-17 loss to the Cowboys Saturday.

BS'ing with the Bull: Apology

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

I would like to start by saying that I am so very sorry for my comments about the cross country team.

I have been quoted as saying that "no one cares about the cross country team," and yes those are my words.

As a person of what I feel is high integrity, I will own up to what I said. Thinking back about what I said, I know and feel that might have been the dumbest thing I have said in a very long time.

Because I know that there are people out there who follow the cross country team just like any other sport, and just because I feel it's not as important as other sports doesn't mean that it is not and does not deserve the credit that it is due.

So to the cross country team, the coaches, Trecey Rew and the fans of the cross country team, I am sorry for my brash and idiotic statement.

I would also like to apologize for the lack of coverage of the cross country team in The Current Sauce.

It was brought to my attention that the cross country team actually won an event and went to the conference tournament where they finished 12th overall.

So, as a reporter/editor of the sports page, it is my duty to cover all NSU sports. So for that, I am again sorry.

Please do not take my words as a way of covering my tail because someone wrote a letter to the editor.

I promise if I weren't serious about my apology, I would not have given it.

The only thing I can ask for from here on out is that if anyone feels that their team is not getting the coverage they think it deserves, please, please let us (The Current Sauce) know before three days after the season is over.

The sports page is only running on two people who have several things to do outside of the newspaper like classes and projects for those classes.

We are human.

We will miss stuff. So, again I am really sorry for my comments that were spoken out of my ignorance.

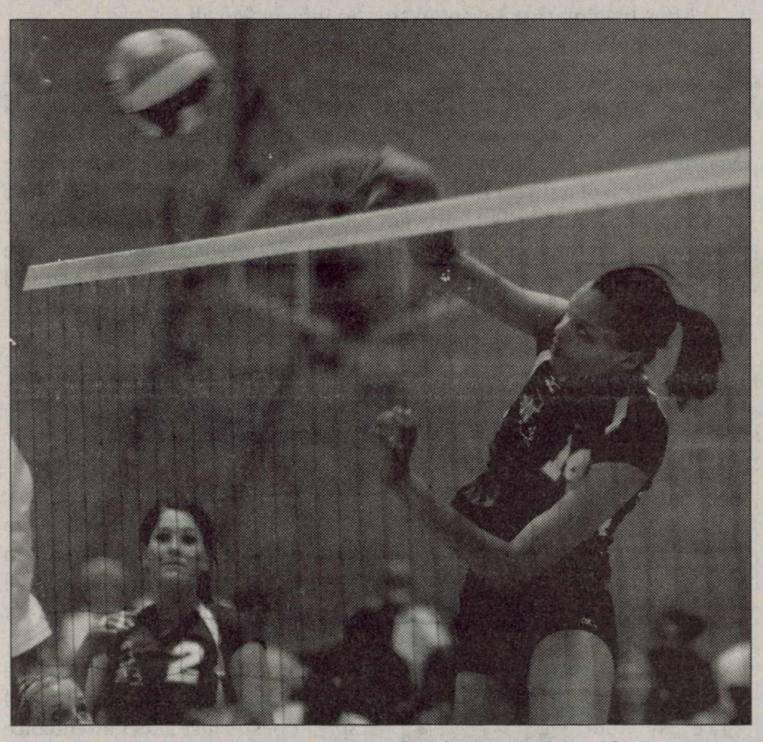


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Sophomore middle blocker Laranda Spann (14) recorded 10 kills and led the team in hitting percentagein the loss to Lamar.

Volleyball finds its way into SLC Tournament

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU Lady Demons backed themselves into the Southland Conference Tournament with a four-game losing streak to end the season.

The last two came at the hands of the Lamar Lady Cardinals and Sam Houston State Lady Bearkats.

Despite losing in straight sets – for the third consecutive match – to the Lamar Lady Cardinals, the Lady Demons still qualified for its fourth straight trip to the SLC Tournament.

"It doesn't matter how you get there; it only matters that you get there," head coach Brittany Uffelman said. "Last year we were in a similar situation and were able to win a game in the tournament (SLC). So, like I said we're in, and that's all that matters."

Laranda Spann led the way for the Lady Demons with 10 kills and hitting for a team high .316 hitting percentage.

Zanny Castillo led the team in digs with 11 while Megan Dockery added seven digs and 25 assists.

As a team, the Lady Demons were only able to manage a .123 hitting percentage.

The final game of the year for NSU didn't fare much better, dropping its fourth straight three-set loss to the Sam Houston State Lady Bearkats.

Yelena Enwere led the Lady Demons in kills with eight. Megan Manning had a team-high 12 digs with Zanny Castillo a close second with 11.

Megan Dockery added 25 assists and seven digs.

NSU hit for a season low -.011 hitting percentage as a team. It had 23 kills with 24 errors in 93 attacks.

"It doesn't matter that we lost our last four," Uffelman said. "It's an all-new season now with the tournament this upcoming weekend."

The Lady Demons qualified for the eighth and final spot in the Southland Conference Tournament.

This marks the fourth straight year that NSU has qualified for the SLC Tournament. NSU travels to Nacogdoches, Texas, the site of the 2008 SLC Tournament, to face the No. 1 seeded Texas State Lady Bobcats.

NSU is winless against the Lady Bobcats, losing in straight sets by an average score of 25-19.

The Lady Demons finished its season with a 10-16 record overall and 5-11 in SLC play.

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MYFRESHCAMPUS.COM

Men's team tips off basketball season

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Northwestern State Demons dominated East Texas Baptist University 87-65 in the home opener, as the Demons completed the sweep of Tuesday's doubleheader.

NSU started out very slowly, scoring only nine points in the first eight minutes of the ballgame Tuesday.

"We have some long guys that can do a lot of things," head coach Mike McConathy said. "Offensively, we're not inept. We're not moving the ball. The ball has to move to make the defense move, so we can make things happen."

Thanks to halftime adjustments made by McConathy and his "hoop squad," the Demons were able to spark early in the second half, scoring 78 points in the final 32 minutes of the game.

"When we do our five in five out, when the transition goes, that's what we're saying in the timeout," sophomore forward Devin White said. "We're bigger than them. We just pound inside. When the inside opens up, the outside opens up."

The outside certainly opened up for the Demons in the second half. NSU shot only 1 for 8, 12.5 percent, from the three-point line in the first half.

The Demons sank 9 of 16 three-pointers in the second half, finishing the game 10-24, 41.7 percent.

Senior guard Keithan Hancock led all scorers with 14 points, shooting 5 for 9 from the field, and 3 for 5 from the three-point line.

White was not too far behind, sinking 12 of his own, adding eight rebounds.

Senior forward Deividas Petravicious and junior guard Michael McConathy added 10 apiece.

The scoring did not stop there for the Demons, as Coach McConathy played 17 guys, 11 scored.

"We have a mindset that we do what we do, which is score the ball, block shots, rebound and run," White said. "When we do what we do, we can make a lot of problems for a lot of people."

Despite the slow offensive start, NSU proved to show its defensive strengths, holding the Tigers to 28 percent shooting from the field, blocking 12 shots and causing 25 turnovers.

"We really struggled early on to get the ball in the basket," Coach McConathy said. "We did some good things defensively in the first half."

Of the 17 players on the roster, 10 of them are freshmen or sophomores.

The development of these young players could be essential to the Demons' success.

"I see a lot of talent in our young guys," White said. "They might not have the knowledge, but they have raw talent. They are just ready to go. Once they get the knowledge, they'll become pure players. By conference, our young guys should have the knowledge to where they'll touch a little bit of their potential. By next year, they'll be ready fully."

The Demons brought it fully in the second half, putting up 51 points, after scoring only 36 in the first half.

"Once we feel the fans are into it, we feel the extra burst," White said. "Not just the fans, but once we get our rotation and our shots are falling."

NSU opened up its regular season on the road in Bloomington, Ind., with an 83-65 loss to the Hoosiers Saturday.

The win over the Tigers moves NSU to 1-1 on the season.

The Demons next contest is Friday as they play Centenary in the LSU Tournament in Baton Rouge at 4 p.m.

For information on the bus ride to the football game at Stephen F. Austin, contact the ticket office at 318.357.4268.

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, December 3, 2008 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 15

This week

Sodexo informed

Mystery shoppers provide ideas for improvement.

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Holiday tradition lives on

Some season trends survive current economic situation.

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Stoker let go

NSU Athletic Dept. opts not to renew head coach's contract.

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Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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3 Life
5 Opinions
6 Sports

Weather

Wednesday 76°/42°

Thursday 57°/31°

Friday 52°/28°

Saturday 66°/35°

Sunday 62°/32°

Monday 64°/53°

Tuesday 73°/39°

SGA satisfied with semester

David Royal
News Editor

In this week's meeting, an amiable atmosphere was present amongst the members of the Student Government Association as they prepared to end the semester.

SGA adviser Yonna Pasch said that, in retrospect, the organization as a whole has done a "plethora of positive things" for the student body.

Pasch credited the overall success of this semester to the SGA's executive board.

"Cody and Mark have done a phenomenal job this semester," said Pasch, referring to the organization's president and vice president.

Pasch added that she thought what the executive board and the rest of SGA did best this semester was take an active role and ensure that they properly followed the SGA constitution.

SGA president Cody Bourque agreed by saying that although the organization did not have any flashy achievements this semester, the members still accomplished many things.

"We haven't had that one big thing to stand out," Bourque said. "It has been more dirty work."

Bourque said he thought the largest obstacle he and his senators had to overcome was the learning curve that came with having so many new senators.

He explained that it took this entire semester for the senators to learn their role and to become fully effective.

Bourque added, however, that the curve was also present for him and vice president Mark Daniels. Although they had been in leadership positions before, Bourque said it took time for the executive board to feel completely comfortable with their positions.

Another problem the SGA faced was trying to accomplish new goals without having past records to look toward for guidance.

"It's hard to build a rocket without a manual," Bourque said to explain this problem.

SGA vice president Mark Daniels said he believed the largest obstacle came from both Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

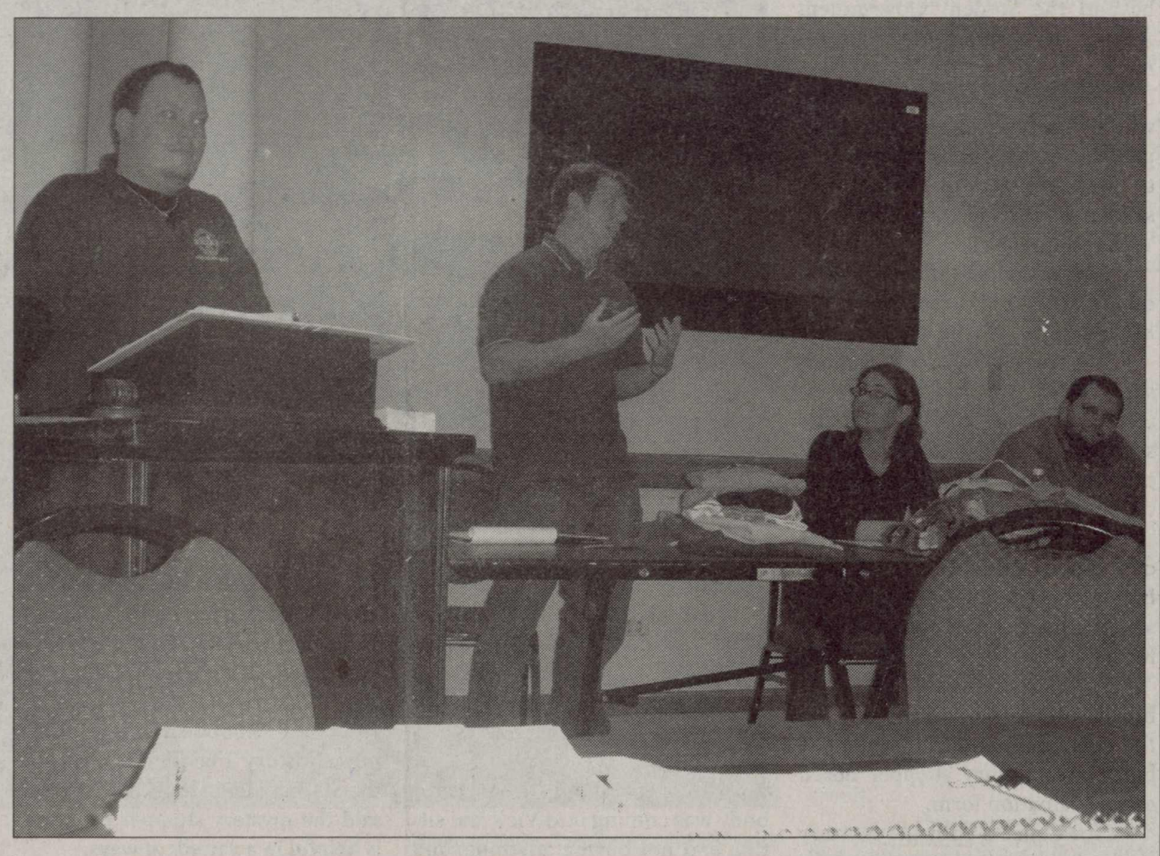


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

SGA president Cody Bourque speaks to the senate Monday night at its meeting. He addresses matters that include the potential future and role of the organization.

Daniels said the organization had many events planned for SGA week earlier in the semester, but the hurricanes limited what they could do.

Despite the setbacks, the SGA still met many goals, Daniels said.

The organization made strides with clarifying the SGA constitution, reorganizing student fees and establishing club sports.

Members of the SGA also provided services such as painting and giving pumpkins and Christmas ornaments to the Council on Aging, a local nursing home, and by providing two children with Christmas gifts through the Court Appointed Special Advocates, Daniels said.

Bourque said he personally feels there has only been one potential negative spot within the SGA this semester.

After passing a bill to reduce the scholarships given to the executive board to allow the SGA to have more money for the student body and service learning, the SGA faced much opposition – primarily from former student government officials – concerning their decision.

Some who opposed the bill said reducing scholarships could potentially defer future students from pursuing an executive position or not allow the future executive board from fulfilling their duties because they might have to dedicate their time to a part-time job.

Yesterday, however, Bourque and his executive board met with NSU President Randall J. Webb and discussed the situation, and ultimately Webb supported and signed to approve the bill.

Webb said he had no hesitations to approve the bill.

"I commend the members of the SGA for finding ways to give back to the student body," Webb said.

Webb explained that Bourque and the executive board addressed all of his concerns and that, in the end, the SGA's argument made more sense than the opposing argument.

Now that the scholarships have been reduced and the SGA will have a greater budget, Bourque said the organization can continue to provide its multiple services to the student body.

Both Bourque and Daniels said they look forward to the upcoming semester.

"We have all kinds of fun stuff planned for the future," Daniels said.

Daniels said he hopes that next semester the SGA will establish better administrative awareness within the student body by possibly having an administrative dinner in which students can dine and mingle with NSU's officials.

The SGA plans to also continue looking into student fees and online voting options, Bourque said.

Bourque added that because it's his last semester as president, he feels he has an obligation to do his very best.

"We're at a turning point in both the SGA and the student body, but I'm excited," Bourque said. "It's not going to be an easy road, but we'll succeed."

Lack of advertising leaves students unaware

SAB seeks better promotion to match quality events



Photo by Eddie Higginbotham/The Current Sauce

Kelli Bagley dresses as a 1980s "material girl" in SAB's float for the Homecoming Parade and pep rally.

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

It's on to a new year for the Student Activities Board, which wrapped up the fall semester with its last event – "Unwrap the Fun," where students could take pictures with Santa and get stocking stuffers in the Friedman Student Union.

After providing 28 events for the student body this fall, the members of SAB are even more excited about what the spring will hold. A big event featured this semester was Welcome Week, which served to help new students transition to NSU.

Other events included Homecoming Week, which comprised Lip Sync Night and the Kickoff Party. Another rousing event was Vegas Night. Students had the opportunity to party like they were in Vegas and enjoy a night at the casino.

SAB President Roderick Wilson is pleased with the success of the fall.

"We've done 28 events and had good turnouts," Wilson said. "It's been a very good fall."

Coming off a recent budget cut Wilson termed the fall semester as "trial and error." However, the budget cut did nothing to hinder SAB from pulling off events as it has done in the past.

"The budget cut didn't affect the events," he said. "We went through the same process and planning. The only thing affected was the residence halls. I wish we could have done more."

Another weakness both Wilson and students cited was advertising. Transfer students Lucia Foster, senior business administration major of the Louisiana Scholars' College, and Haley Vining, sophomore photography major of Scholars', said they were "not aware" of many of the SAB events.

"I wish more things were done with the residence halls, but as for the other activities on campus, I didn't know about them," Foster, a resident of University Place Phase II, said.

"I don't feel the events were talked about enough," freshman radiology major Dezira Henry said. "The posters didn't really catch my eye."

Wilson said in the upcoming semester he and his fellow SAB members are going to strive to improve the organization's public re-

Cont. on p. 2

$4M electrical system project approved

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor

The NSU Physical Plant recently received approval from Facility Planning and Control to start work on the $4 million installation of a new electrical system for the campus.

The bid was awarded at $2.8 million, but Bourg said the project to bury new lines, replace transformers and install switchgear boxes will take a full year and around $4 million to complete.

The contractor for this project is Twin City Electric, even though another company offered a lower bid. The logic behind the choice, Bourg said, was based on legal matters.

"The state has a law that any time you do a contractor or bid proposal and you have to make a correction ... even if it's a backspace and you correct it on a typewriter, you have to initial it. They didn't initial it; it cost us $110,000 to the project," Bourg said.

Twin City Electric has worked on previous construction projects at NSU. They are installing the emergency generator at the Health and Human Performance building. The company also repaired the lights in Turpin Stadium after Hurricane Rita.

"The old [electrical] system has been in place since the 1930s when we used to generate our own power on campus," Bourg explained. "We no longer do that because the equipment in the power plant's antiquated and can't support the entire campus grid."

The campus currently has two main electricity feeds – an east feed near the Alumni Center and a west feed near the Teacher Education Center.

The aging underground system has caused sporadic power outages for many years on the NSU campus.

"What the new system will enable us to do is that we'll loop these two feeds together, where if we lose incoming power on one feed it's picked up by the other automatically and the buildings don't go out," Bourg said.

The new electrical system will also include a third feed and a new station with switchgear boxes, but work on the new system will not begin for some time.

"They won't disconnect any of the old stuff until the new stuff's ready to be switched over," Bourg said.

NSU President Randall J. Webb said he expects the project to be a success.

"Our hope is that this system will serve NSU well for the next 25 years," Webb said.

The electrical system will bring many improvements to the campus.

Bourg said the new equipment will be more efficient and less expensive to operate. The new system may also decrease the amount of power outages on campus, Bourg said.

In the spring, Bourg said the contractors will probably set up a staging area behind Caddo Hall so that they can store the equipment that comes in. Bourg predicts that nothing will be completed until October of next year.

"It's a needed construction project. Any time we can enhance the infrastructure of the campus of that magnitude – whether it's an electrical system or the steam system – it's very beneficial to us in the operations," Bourg said. "We'll start saving money on the utilities side, and we'll be able to start putting some of that money toward some nice new buildings."

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
December 3, 2008

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Top100
Chinese Restaurants
in U.S.A.

Constructive criticism gained from mystery shoppers

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Sodexo general manager Vance Howe plans to continue evaluating students' campus dining experience with the mystery shopper program he and the Student Government Association implemented this semester.

The SGA recruited students who could serve as mystery shoppers by filling out questionnaires to rate the quality of the food and service at Iberville Dining Hall and Vic's restaurant.

Some shoppers noted unclean dining areas and a lack of posted menus and employee name tags.

The survey included questions such as "Do you feel that you received value for both the food and service offered?" and "Were you acknowledged and treated fairly by the staff?"

Students ranked their answers on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 10 (definitely). A comment section was also provided at the bottom of the form.

"Unit worker stated 'bread is bread' after dropping the bun on the counter and did not toast the bun," one mystery shopper noted on an evaluation form.

Howe meets with the mystery shoppers on Thursdays to keep tabs on the dining hall's progress and to note any changes that he needs to make.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/ The Current Sauce

Vic's now serves a wider variety of dishes, including soup.

Howe said many positive changes have come out of Vic's, which he said used to bear resemblance to a shopping mall – a social gathering point on campus where students go, but don't necessarily spend money.

"It got to a point where everybody was coming into Vic's and sitting and not buying anything, and then the people who wanted to eat would have to go someplace else. But now we're getting a different response," Howe said. "I see that we're getting different groups of individuals that are coming in, that are buying food and that are staying here now. It's because we're offering different things here at Vic's."

Jason Thibodeaux, a sophomore history major and chair of the SGA student affairs committee, said the mystery shopper program is helpful in a variety of ways.

"The mystery shopper is not only for Vance to get input, but it keeps his workers on their toes because they don't know, at any time somebody could be watching," Thibodeaux said.

Thibodeaux said that, to his knowledge, there was no comment card system this semester, but that it may be in the works for next year.

Howe met with Thibodeaux and SGA vice president Mark Daniels to discuss the mystery shopper program earlier this year.

Daniels pointed out that closing down 40 minutes early is unacceptable for a cafeteria on a college campus, where many students' dining options are limited.

One mystery shopper noted that some workers at Iberville were still closing up shop early.

Howe said he plans to change this problem and others, including inefficient service. He said some employees undergo customer service training, and he is already starting to see improvement.

"They just don't look at you and then walk away when you're coming up to get a sandwich like they used to do." Howe said. "It used to be, 'Well, I'm not here for you. You're here for me.' And that attitude is starting to change."

The staff of both dining venues have been affected.

"We moved people around over there in Iberville," Howe said. "We found through the mystery shopper program that there were some people that were slower in some areas where you had to have the ability to multitask, and so we kind of switched some people around to help."

Daniels said he was impressed by the turnover of employees. He said Howe did a good job coordinating the project.

"It's always been his thing. It's something that Sodexo's national does," Daniels said.

Daniels said the SGA helped out with this project by encouraging three female students to apply for the position. Howe said he only received applications from male students, and that he had a few ladies interested in the project who later decided they were too busy.

Daniels added that if Howe needs help recruiting again next semester, the SGA is happy to help.

"They've made such steps in trying to help provide better stuff for the students that we want to make sure we're doing everything," Daniels said.

Howe also pointed out that he wants perspective on how he could best help vegetarians and health-conscious students.

Daniels said the SGA's purpose is to be a voice for the students. Though Daniels and Thibodeaux said Howe has taken the reins on this particular project, they added that the SGA is happy to help if Howe asks.

SAB cont. from p. 1

lations to correct this problem.

The SAB has now realized that flyers are not the best way to advertise events, Wilson said.

"We're trying to think outside of the box," Wilson said. "We may try to use props to catch people's attention like we did for last year's Spring Fling."

Other marketing tools that may be used more next semester include having SAB members wear T-shirts promoting a specific event and setting up tables in popular areas to personally get the word out to students about the organization's events, Wilson said.

Music education majors Jeremy Murray, a senior, and Roosevelt Porter, a freshman, said they liked the events, especially Homecoming Week. However, Murray said he missed the events of the past.

"I miss the game show stuff SAB used to do," Murray said. "I remember doing the 'Price is Right' and the 'Real World.' I think its success was in the TV show stuff."

Though the general consensus proves that either students liked the events or didn't know about them, Wilson has "bigger and better" plans for the spring.

"Yes, the fall has been good, but we can do more," he said. "I want to do bigger events like concerts and bring in comedians. There are only better things to come."

Wilson's optimism and enthusiasm has caught the interest of new students. Freshman radiology major Kelsey Thompson is excited about Spring Fling.

"I've heard how fun Spring Fling is, and I can't wait," Thompson said.

Wilson said he feels next semester will be even greater than the semester that is concluding.

"We weren't exactly sure how this semester was going to work out, but the executive board really did a good job not to let that slow them down," Wilson said. "We have a better understanding of what to expect, so I think next semester will be even more exciting."



Photo by Eddie Higginbotham/The Current Sauce

At the SAB Lip Sync Night, students dance in a "Soul Train" line. This event was part of the organization's Homecoming Week festivities in October.

Police Blotter

11/21

9:22 a.m. LSMSA windows found propped open

2:30 p.m. Gate arm dropped on police car. No visible damage to car. There is minor damage to arm.

11/22

3:33 p.m. Subject en route to reset alarm at consumer science building.

3:55 p.m. Subject arrives at consumer science building.

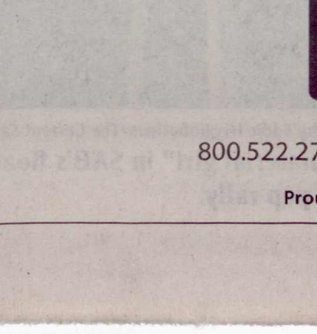
4:00 p.m. Subject cannot reset alarm. He will try again tomorrow.

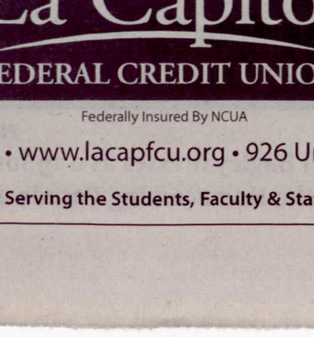
****The Current Sauce collects the police blotter each week from the University Police department.**

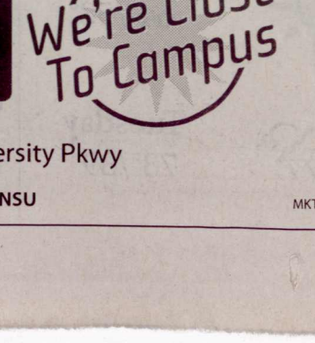
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Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief
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December 3, 2008

Jingle bells, looking for sales



Photo by Kevin Clarkston/The Current Sauce

Students who go shopping during this year's holiday season may find themselves influenced by the struggling economy.

Kevin Clarkston
Features Reporter

The holidays are a time to reconnect with family and friends, exchange gifts and watch city streets and homes grow wild with bursts of colorful fluorescent lights.

With the current state of the economy, everything from gas to gummy worms has gotten more expensive.

Next to the presidential election, it has been the biggest topic of 2008. Wall Street meltdowns and schizophrenic oil prices will inevitably have an effect on holiday traveling and shopping plans.

Or will they?

"Honestly [my plans] haven't been affected at all," Bryan Johnson, sophomore social work major, said. "I just go home and spend time with family."

Johnson thinks the current recession won't put much of a dent in his shopping habits, but price tags will still be a factor.

"People give gifts no matter what," he said. Johnson said he plans to buy gifts for those close to him. "If I see something and it reminds me of them, I'll buy it."

For Hannah Goodfellow, sophomore fine arts major, being employed saves money and makes buying gifts easier.

"During the holiday I'll be working mostly, so I won't be going home back and forth, spending a lot of money on gas and everything like that," she said. "This year it won't be as bad because last year I didn't have a job, so money was really tight. I work at Mama's restaurant on Front Street, and we stay really busy during the holidays."

Despite the steady cash flow, Goodfellow is still selective about whom she will shop for and how much she will spend.

"I wouldn't buy a lot of the same gifts that I normally would buy. I look for some stuff on sale," she said. "I'll buy for like my close best friends, and I'll buy for my family as well."

Still, nothing stands in the way of getting the perfect present.

"If you find the right gift, somehow [you'll] find a way to come up with the money for it," Goodfellow said.

Nevertheless, some holiday plans like traveling, couldn't avoid the grasp of the current economic crisis.

Johnson said some family members' travel plans have been affected.

"My uncle came down from Chicago early, because the [airline] rates would be cheaper," he said.

Last January, a trip to his mother's home state of Connecticut was cancelled because it was too expensive.

Goodfellow said her family will still travel.

"During Thanksgiving we go to Baton Rouge, and then during Christmas we'll go to St. Joseph, which is in Tensas parish," she said.

Gas prices are not an issue.

"I think my parents are fine with that. I don't they're affected by it," she said.

Dorothy Jones, an economics professor in the College of Business, thinks those traveling for holidays should not expect much in the way of bargains, especially with airlines.

"Right now the holidays are really upon us in so many ways. So they're not going to be able to find a whole lot as far as that's concerned," she said. "Usually you have to buy your tickets in advance in order to take advantage of certain discounts."

Businesses are sure to feel the sting of the economic crisis, with the holiday season often the most crucial earning quarter for stores.

Brittany Hammond, an associate at the Stage store in Natchitoches, said while it is too early to tell what holiday shopping figures will be, she is confident business will be good.

"[During the holidays we're] very, very busy. We stay open later," she said. When asked if she was worried about the negative effects the crisis could inflict on sales, she simply said, "Not at all."

However, according to Jones, Hammond should be more than a little nervous about customers' spending habits.

"I just feel that many people, or consumers, are going to be pulling back for the holiday. I don't think they're going to be spending as much," Jones said. "I think the main reason they're not going to be spending as much is because of the credit crisis ... because much of the spending that is done during the holiday season is, in fact, on credit."

Jones thinks the crisis will affect businesses beyond the holiday season.

"It's hurting them in other ways too because they're not going to be able to continue to produce, even for the coming quarter," she said.

"They're not going to be investing as much in production for the coming quarter, because they know what's happening now."

Jones, who has taken a poll in her classes to see what students' shopping and travel plans are, thinks many consumers will be stalking sales racks and shopping online for discounts.

"I think people will be looking for bargains in every area that they can find them, she said. "They certainly will be shopping online because that allows you to be able to do more research before you make a purchase."

She said the biggest hurdle for businesses is consumer confidence.

"People are pessimistic about reality and the future... and part of the problem is the credit crisis," Jones said. "Part of the problem is the mortgage meltdown. But people are being affected on a personal basis."

"If you're looking at an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent, that means people are losing their jobs ... if you can ask someone 'Do you know anybody who lost their job?' and when you are able to say "Yes I know somebody' and when I'm able to say 'Yes I know somebody' then the economy is in some serious trouble."

Johnson and Goodfellow said seeing family more than compensates for having a few less presents under the Christmas tree.

"It's more about family and spending time with them," Johnson said.

"Holidays are my favorite time of year, so I'm just excited about that," Goodfellow said.

For her part, Jones thinks people will ultimately go with emotion over logic, and will sacrifice in order to connect with family.

"The holidays still bring with them sentiment, so people still want to be with family members," Jones said. "So I think people might be making some sacrifices in making trips because they want to see family."

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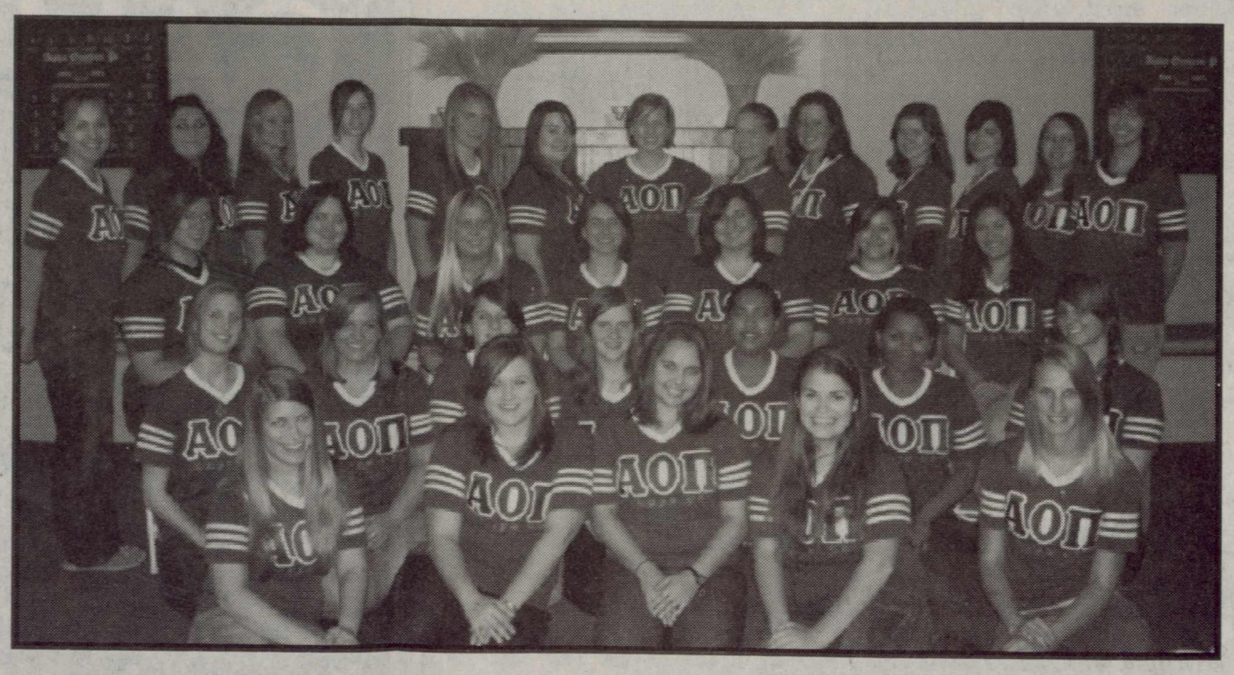
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



From the Sisters of Kappa Chi

Chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief
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December 3, 2008

Teachers team up for new film theory concentration

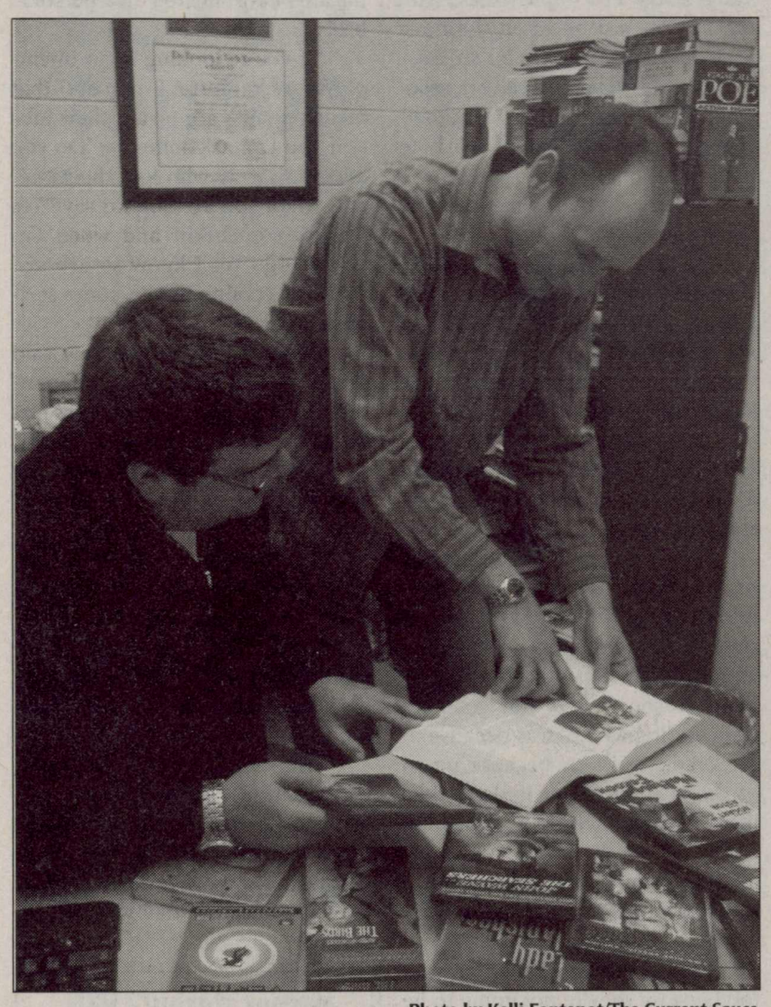


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Professors Andy Crank and Allen Bauman have established a film theory concentration for NSU's English department.

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

English majors at NSU can concentrate in folklife and southern studies, communication, professional writing, literature – and now, film theory.

The Curriculum Review Council just approved the new film theory concentration, which will provide students with the opportunity to study and analyze aspects of classic and contemporary cinematography.

Allen Bauman and Andy Crank, two English professors at NSU, conceived the idea of a concentration, as well as a Classic and Unseen Cinema series that will be open to the public.

Both professors teach a few film classes already and will be offering more courses next semester.

"We've been talking about this for a long time," Bauman said.

They, along with others in the English department, taught sporadic film courses but did not have a film studies program, though many other universities in the state do, Crank said.

Crank said some students tend to look at film as something that "just washes over them." They don't analyze or digest it, and that's something Crank and Bauman both want to change.

"It's all about getting them to think analytically about film, so they're not just consumers of pop culture and consumers of film, but they're analytical thinkers about film," Crank said.

The professors are adding screening equipment – new seating, a large flat screen TV, DVD player and surround sound – to a room in Kyser Hall that they'll use for classes next semester.

Some students are already taking their film theory studies outside the classroom.

Roxie James, an instructor for the English department, and English major Katie Magana are submitting a paper to a pop culture conference on connections between the novel "Dracula" and the movie "Texas Chainsaw Massacre," Bauman said.

Crank and Bauman are organizing a film library that will help them keep track of all the movies they'll show students in class. Among Bauman's films of choice are "Blade Runner," "Vertigo" and "Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

Crank explained that even for scholars, these popular films are definitely worth watching.

"Sometimes people will look at 'Texas Chainsaw Massacre' or 'Halloween' or something and say, 'Why are we studying this in an analytical way? There's nothing analytical about 'Halloween,' but actually when you look at it there is a structure," Crank said. "And the way that it unfolds is within a larger film history and a larger theory and a larger paradigm, and if you start thinking analytically about that, I think that's important. I think that's an important tool for you to have."

Bauman said "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" marks a transition – moving from classic horror films like "Frankenstein" to the '80s slasher horror film genre. He encourages his students to watch the way the camerawork and lighting help to highlight characters' emotions.

Crank said his film theory class might watch "The Big Lebowski" when discussing how the narrator functions in film.

Bauman and Crank both said they love film and have been teaching film theory courses for years. These professors' interesting perspectives may provide cues for a film department at NSU.

The film theory concentration will not offer classes that teach students how to use professional cameras or make films of their own, though Crank said such courses may eventually become part of the curriculum.

Bauman and Crank both attended undergraduate and graduate schools offering film study programs and foreign film clubs. Crank said he would like to start up a similar organization at NSU to supplement the concentration.

In Crank's film theory class, students watch "Donnie Darko," "Election" and "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and analyze them according to time period and context.

"Ideally, students that graduate with this concentration, when they see a film, should be able to place it within an appropriate culture, within an appropriate time period," Crank said.

Crank serves as director of undergraduate studies, while Bauman is director of graduate studies.

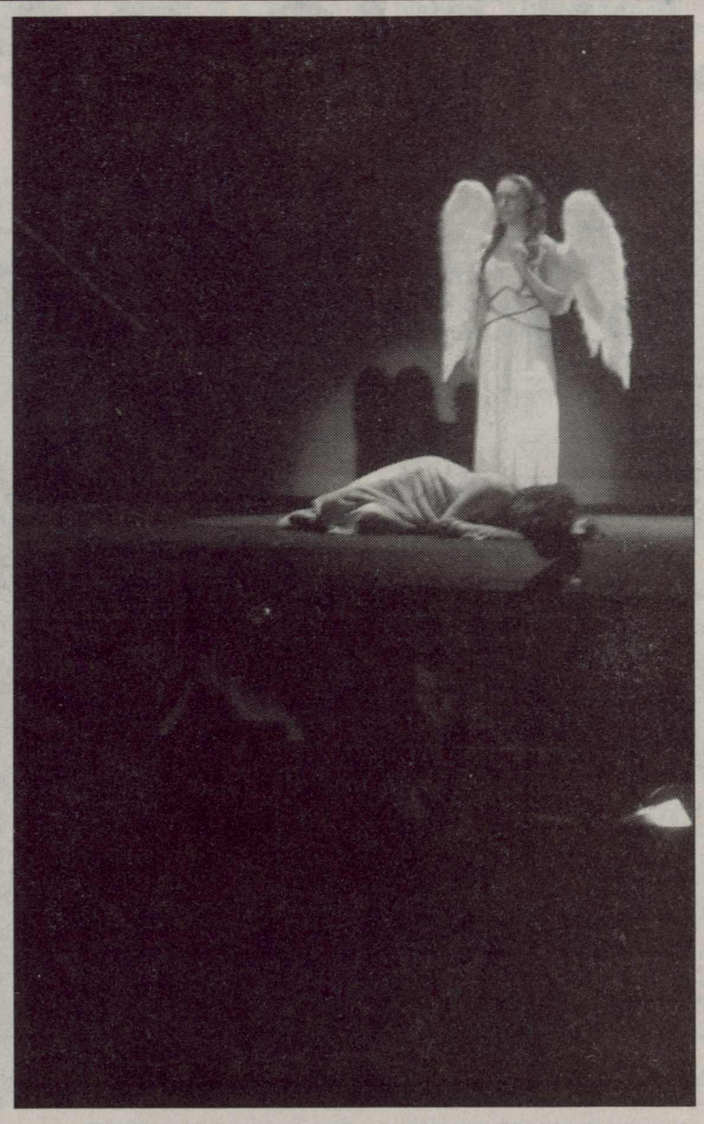


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Megan Adams sings an angelic rendition of "O Holy Night" at a rehearsal for this year's annual Christmas Gala, directed by Professors Barry Stoneking and Wm. Perry Morgan. Professor Robert Graham designed the lighting for the production. The Gala features performances by many organizations on campus, including the Natchitoches-Northwestern symphony orchestra, the Demon Dazzlers and members of the NSU percussion studio. Performances take place Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m. and Friday at 9 p.m. in A. A. Fredericks Auditorium. Tickets are $7.

Highlighting... Christmas Gala

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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
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December 3, 2008

'Goodbye Little Darlin'

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



It's the end of the semester, and my last chance to say goodbye to the seniors who may never read my ramblings again. So, I want to part on a good note, darlin'.

This is it.

Finals have started for you, and pretty soon you'll be walking down that magical path to accept your diploma.

Once you leave the graduation ceremony, it is customary for Life to grab a big, heavy bag of Real World and beat you with it... and if you thought I was referring to the MTV show, you're wrong and should be ashamed of yourself.

The real world is, according to legend, a scary place.

Apparently, you can't hide away in your house or apartment and wait for the day to pass you by. Employers frown on that.

What are you going to do out there in this uncharted territory? Do you save lives with medicine? Do you teach the youth coming up in the world? Do you stop a madman from committing heinous crimes?

You're going to get married, and, God help us, some of you are going to reproduce.

While I don't encourage this because I know a few of you, I suppose I can't spend my life trying to clean up the gene pool.

And, let's face it, with the likes of Paris Hilton, we're screwed anyway (pun not intended).

The world is a scary place right now. I guess it always is, but right now, we're facing a lot of challenges.

There's a global economic crisis the likes of which we've never seen, people who want to see us as a nation completely and totally destroyed and MySpace.

There's no way we're coming out of this unscathed.

All kidding aside, you've got to lead the way to a better future. Some of you elected Barack Obama to be your leader, some of you didn't.

Regardless, the man is taking on these challenges, and while we're not all presidents, we need to give the man our support.

I'm just a junior, and I'm pretty sure I got a good year and a half to two years ahead of me.

I can't do much but write about what's going on. It's up to you to take it on as you head out there into the wilderness.

Goodbye, little darlin', and a merry Christmas to you all. Congratulations on reaching the next plateau of life.

Didn't get to tell us what you think? Don't fret! We'll be back next semester! In the meantime, go to our Web site!

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All submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone.

All submissions become property of The Current Sauce.

Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

To jump or not to jump

Bethany Frank
Guest Columnist



As the leaves fell and Front Street lit up the river with the endless array of Christmas lights, our very own editor in chief said her "I do's" to the man of her dreams.

I struggle to commit myself to a weekly column, but in the midst of exams and the pressures of graduation, she commits herself to another person for a lifetime.

Relationships and commitment scare the crap out of me, and in the midst of her merriment, I find the desire to seek the pleasure of skydiving.

While 45.8 percent of new marriages end in divorce, according to divorcemag.com, the chances of dying while skydiving are one in 250,000 to 500,000 jumps, according to "How to Skydive for the First Time."

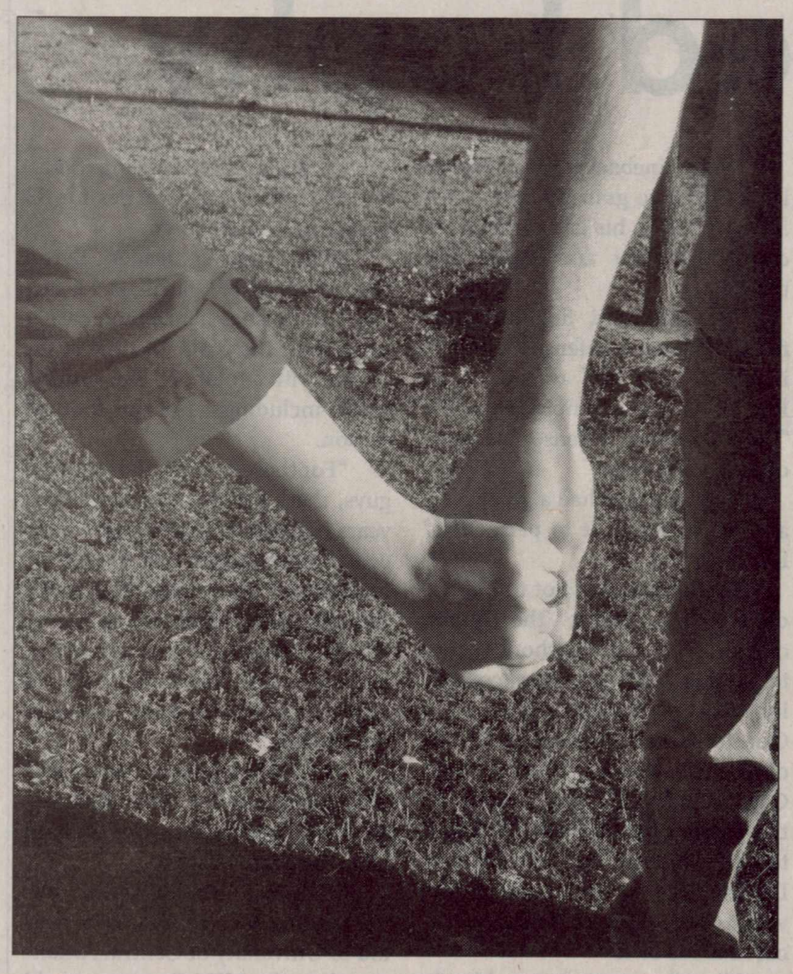
So, why take the chance of entering a relationship?

There is no such thing as a sure thing.

Everything in life consists of risks and consequences. But sometimes when you take the right chances, the right risks, the rewards exceed any consequence.

There is excitement in doing what terrifies you. There is a little jolt of glee the first time he asks to hold your hand. A tingle goes down your spine as you enjoy the guilty pleasure of the first kiss. There are no words to describe the excitement each time his ringtone fills the room.

But before the simplicities of a relationship can tickle the heart, the heart first needs to be open to the possibilities.



No one wants to be alone, and everyone strives to find that one person to share a lifetime with.

"I think we're always looking for that boy or that girl, just sometimes it might not be a top priority," Colby Bizette, senior social work major, said.

Education is essential. You live and you learn, and then you try again.

Some see college as the possibility to find their true love, but others choose to put their love lives on hold and concentrate on education.

"Everybody comes to college to pursue a career," Carlos Ortiz IV, senior music performance major, said. "If I get in a serious relationship, then not only will I be interfering with their goals and dreams, I will also be messing with mine. I don't want to stop or change a person's goals, because I know that I wouldn't want them to do that to me."

But despite the fear of commitment, students still search for the proverbial fish in the sea.

"I want to be able to support a family by me having a good job and a nice house before I start one," Ortiz said. "I think that us humans were put on this earth to love."

Despite its small appearance, love is one of the biggest words in the dictionary. It holds the power to change lives and move hearts.

"Love is the greatest expression that separates us from the other animals," Ortiz said.

It spreads like wildfire, but just like fire it holds the potential to do great harm.

So many people strive to find their perfect mate, but in the search they lose the true meaning of love, romance and lust.

From birth, people are taught to love their neighbor and never say they hate anyone. It is this lack of logic that has to do with the growth of the divorce rate.

There is a spectrum of emotions, and love and hate are on opposite ends. As people grow and develop, they are able to slowly hold the capacity to both love and hate to some extent.

It is in understanding the ability to hate that people have the ability to love. People need to be able to love and hate to the same extent, regardless if they choose not to express the emotion.

Because of this lack of understanding of the word, it is misused and tossed around and often results in broken hearts and failed marriages. There is no doubt our newlyweds found true love.

As I impatiently anticipate my skydiving experience, I lack the assurance the chute will open, but I have faith that with the aid of the instructor I will return safely to the ground.

In a world filled with risks and chances, it is easy to stay on the ground and veer from any potential harm.

But the thrill of the adrenaline rush makes strapping on the parachute or zipping up the wedding dress worth any consequence that might accompany the risk.

Life should be filled with happiness, and people should never regret anything that once made them smile. But first, people have to be willing to take the leap.

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'Tis not the season for tragedy

Richelle Stephens
Guest Columnist



I once told myself that I would never go shopping on the day after Thanksgiving. But this year, I did.

Note to self: don't ever do *that* again.

I have yet to figure out what exactly compelled my mother to drag me out of bed at four in the morning, but I soon found myself among a throng of bargain hunters at a Dallas mall scratching and scraping through the mass of bodies so that they may procure the perfect Christmas present for someone on their shopping list at the lowest price possible.

There is a Best Buy on the way to my father's house, and every Thanksgiving when I make that trek to the droll upper middle class neighborhood in which he lives, I can spot at least 10 people camped out by the front door in feeble plastic tents, shivering in anticipation (and from the cold as well) for marked-down flatscreen televisions, Wii video games and $99 TomTom GPS devices.

People storm toy stores so that they may grab the "hot" toy of the season for their spoiled children. Typically docile mothers engage in sparring matches with other domesticated mothers for something that may be relegated to the bottom of the toy chest by March. People become like ravenous wolves prowling for fresh meat.

Christmas is no longer a religious holiday.

It's a corporate holiday where executives worship the almighty and (these days) elusive dollar. And, to be frank, the "spirit of the season" is quick to turn sour once properly provoked.

And, unfortunately, people died this time around just so shoppers could save a few bucks.

In New York, a temporary Wal-Mart employee was trampled to death as hundreds stormed the store's doors upon its opening. When it was announced that the store would be closing because of the death, some customers complained that they had been in line since the day before and continued to shop.

In California, two men shot and killed each other after a fight broke out at a Toys 'R' Us. A 13-year-old who was interviewed at the scene couldn't believe people could die at a toy store.

It was ridiculous when people were waiting for hours in line so that they could push and shove their way toward their intended purchases, but when it becomes a life and death situation, then it gets entirely out of hand.

It is understandable that times are tough, but our society needs to wake up. Since when is it all right to kill someone for something so transient as a TV or a DVD player? Those things come and go as all material possessions do. A human life, more precious than what a dollar value could offer, is irreplaceable.

The holiday season should be one of reflection, not of careless disregard for other human beings. These unnecessary deaths come at a time when people should be thinking about what should matter most, and that is the fact that we are fortunate to be alive and free. I only hope that those directly responsible for the three deaths on "Black Friday" realize this some day.

SGA president backs controversial budgeting bill

Cody Bourque
SGA President



In the Nov.19 issue of the Current Sauce, David Royal reported on our vote to lower our executive scholarships to a set amount in order to save money and lock in a set amount in order to stabilize our fluctuating budget.

More importantly, we made this decision to give back more to the students through the Student Government Association.

This move is one my administration strongly supports (as strongly as you can possibly support giving away money as a college student) and the idea of a reduction of scholarships has been thrown around most recently under the organization's former adviser, Jeff Mathews.

Before I get any further, I wanted to say a little about my personal financial situation. I receive a Pell Grant and a $500 band scholarship aside from my full scholarship provided by the student body. In the previous two years, I would not have made it through school financially if it wasn't for the help of my grandmother.

Under the proposed plan, I will be getting a $3,000 salary each semester on top of a tuition waiver from the Board of Regents. Sure, it's a significant cut from the $5,085 I received this semester, but that is still enough money for me to live comfortably so I would not have to take a job at Subway.

Just like the debate over the bill in the Senate, there have been many opinions in support and opposition of the salary structure.

Opponents of the bill believe that the current structure is justified because the executives earn their scholarship, which is very true. (I am required 12 office hours a week, but every member of the Senate can attest that I spend well over that required amount in the office and out working for the student body).

It's a valid point, but anyone who steps up into these positions should believe that service goes hand-in-hand with sacrifice. That is what we're trying to do, sacrifice the money our fellow students graciously give us and give it back to try to better enhance our services (like expanding scantron giveaways, for example) as an organization.

When I bring the bill to President Webb this week for his approval, I will present both sides of the argument and stress to him that this piece of legislation marks a turning point for student government at NSU. SGA can either provide more services with an increase of funds to the general budget or define the organization as strictly a governing body with few to no services or events.

SGA already oversees essential budgets for the student body along with the influence, however big or small it may be at times, that comes along with the representation, so exclusively focusing on governing is not a tremendous loss since it is what we already do.

Whatever the outcome for this spring semester; whether I receive full scholarship or a salary, please know that we are working as hard as we possibly can for Demonland.

You are the reason we are here, not for scholarship money.

Always know that no matter what amount SGA executives are awarded, we are held responsible by you, and it's up to you to use your strong influence.

Sports

Fletcher Jonson
Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editors
December 3, 2008

NSU brings home coveted trophy

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

With slim hopes of still winning the conference, the NSU Demons did their part by bringing home the largest trophy in all of college football, Chief Caddo, home for the second straight year with a win against archrival Stephen F. Austin, 34-24.

The defense played extremely well, allowing only 241 passing yards and only 24 points. The Lumberjacks entered this game as the nation's second-best passing offense, averaging 355 yards per game, and they also ranked 11th in the nation as far as scoring offenses go with 36 points per game.

Not only did the defense stop one of the best offenses in the nation, but they also forced five turnovers, which is a lot by itself, but more impressive since the "Purple Swarm" defense has forced only 15 turnovers all season entering the game.

Safety Gary Riggs started the interception party merely 89 seconds into the game when he picked off quarterback Jeremy Moses and returned it 39 yards for the first score of the game for the Demons. Defensive back Wesley Eckles also joined in the pick party with a pair of interceptions and a team high eight tackles.

Senior linebacker Mack Dampier was able to grab his first career interception in his last game of his career. Dampier also added five tackles.

The fifth and final turnover for the Demons defense came late in the second half as end Ledell Love recovered a fumble to give the "Purple Swarm" defense five turnovers on the game.

"Our coaches had a great plan, and we executed it to perfection," Dampier said.

The offense was not to be outdone by the defense. The Demon offense surpassed a school record in passing yards as a team, compiling 368 yards through the air. Quarterback John Hundley was 29 of 44 for 294 yards. Wide receiver Calvin Stoker III also got in on the passing parade with a 74-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Dudley Guice Jr. Guice was on the verge of breaking some school records of his own.

His 11 receptions put him in third place on the single-game receptions list, and his 190 yards was good enough for sixth place on the schools all time game-high list.

The ground game also added 121 yards to the Demons' season best 489 yards of total offense.

Hundley led the way on the ground as well with 42 yards on 12 carries and a score.

Running back Sterling Endsley also added eight carries for 33 yards and a touchdown.

NSU rushing leader Byron Lawrence had 27 yards on 11 carries and finishes his Demon career second on the NSU all-time rushing list with a total of 3,316 rushing yards, including 1,118 this football season.

"For these seniors, the five-year guys, that's keeping the Chief four years out of five. That's huge," head coach Scott Stoker told Sports Information. "That's upholding tradition. This team deserved to have a winning record and a winning conference record. As it turned out, we were one play away from playing in the playoffs."

The "one play away" Stoker was alluding to was the Texas State 43-40 victory in overtime over the Sam Houston State Bearkats.

Had the Bearkats pulled out the win and McNeese lose like they did to University of Central Arkansas, then the NSU Demons would have seen playoff action for the first time in four seasons. The Demons end their season with a 7-5 overall record and 4-3 record in the Southland Conference.

The Demons may not have made the playoffs, but they do have the satisfaction of bringing home Chief Caddo for yet another season.

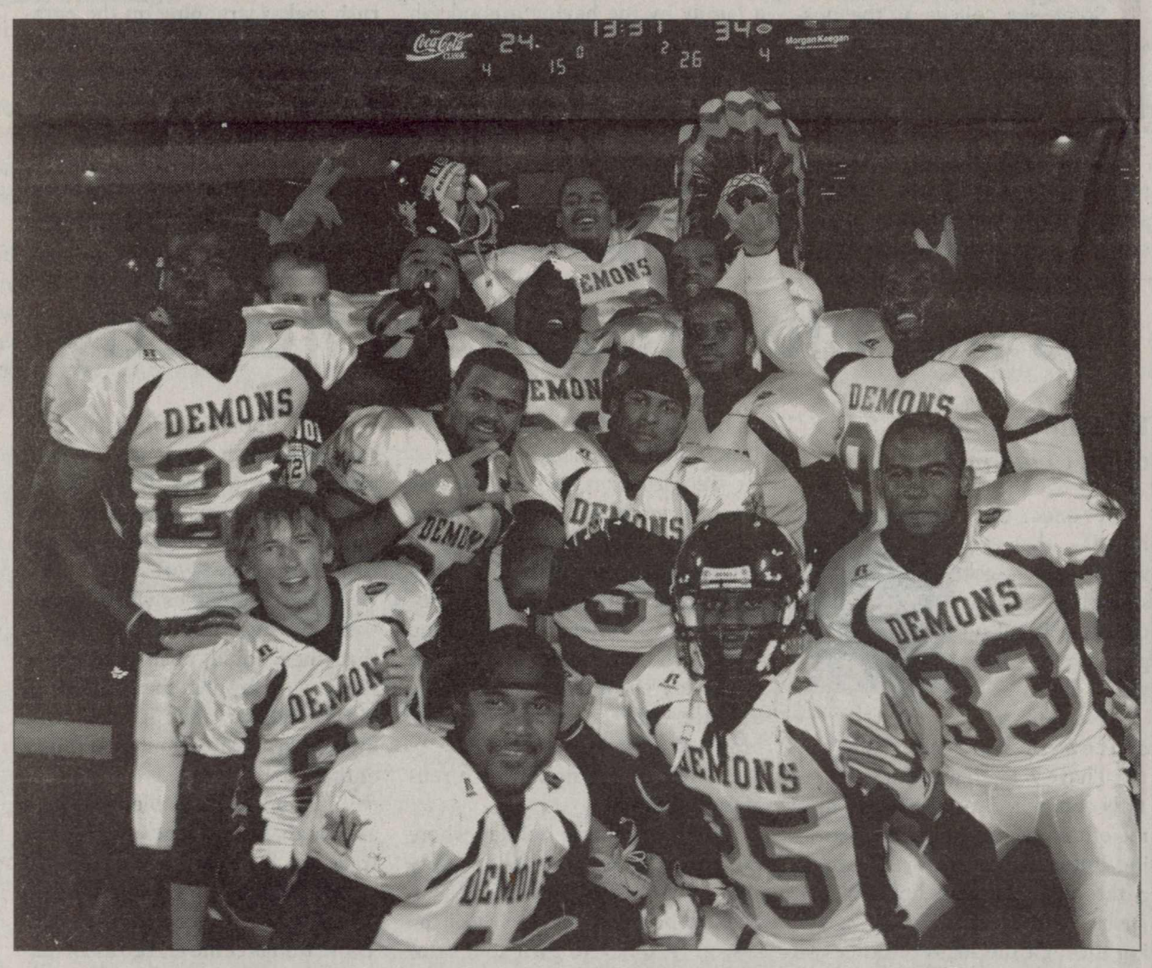


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Players gather around Chief Caddo after a 34-24 victory over the SFA Lumberjacks.

Era ends for Demon football

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

On Nov. 25, just two days before Thanksgiving Day, Demon head football coach Scott Stoker was told that his contract would not be renewed for an eighth season by the NSU athletic department.

Stoker finished seven years as the head football coach at NSU, his alma mater, with a 43-38 overall record, including two trips to the playoffs in 2002 and 2004.

He finished his NSU career with a 21-21 record in the Southland Conference, a 2-11 mark against the football bowl subdivision (formally 1-A), a 33-27 record against the football championship subdivision (formally 1-AA), and a 8-0 mark against Division II opponents.

He also finished his coaching tenure here at NSU with one SLC Championship in 2004.

"What does not make this any easier is the fact that Scott is an NSU alumnus and former Demon player. He bleeds purple," Athletic Director Greg Burke told Sports Information.

"At the same time, as we went through the evaluation process over the past few weeks and days, I had to keep my focus on the future of the program," Burke added. "That's not easy when you're talking about an individual whom you have known and respected for over 20 years."

Stoker also is a member of the Graduate N Club Hall of Fame, the highest honor for athletes and coaches here at NSU, for his stellar play as the quarterback for the Demons from 1986-1989.

His time as a player included the very first SLC Championship for NSU in 1988, his junior season.

"Nobody loves Northwestern more than I do," Stoker said in his press conference Wednesday. "What happened Tuesday doesn't change that. My feelings are hurt, but I still bleed purple, and I will be pulling for the Demons. There are a lot of great people involved. The coaches in other sports work so hard. It was a privilege to work with so many of them. I'm sorry it didn't work out."

Stoker did finish his career on a high note by defeating archrival Stephen F. Austin University two years in a row, bringing Chief Caddo back to NSU for back-to-back seasons.

He also finished the season with a 7-5 record overall and 4-3 in SLC play, finishing in second place in the Southland Conference.

"They set the bar very high if 7-5 and second place in the league isn't good enough to keep moving forward," Stoker said in his press conference Wednesday.

Stoker was not available for comments after his press conference, but as of now his plans for after NSU are unknown.

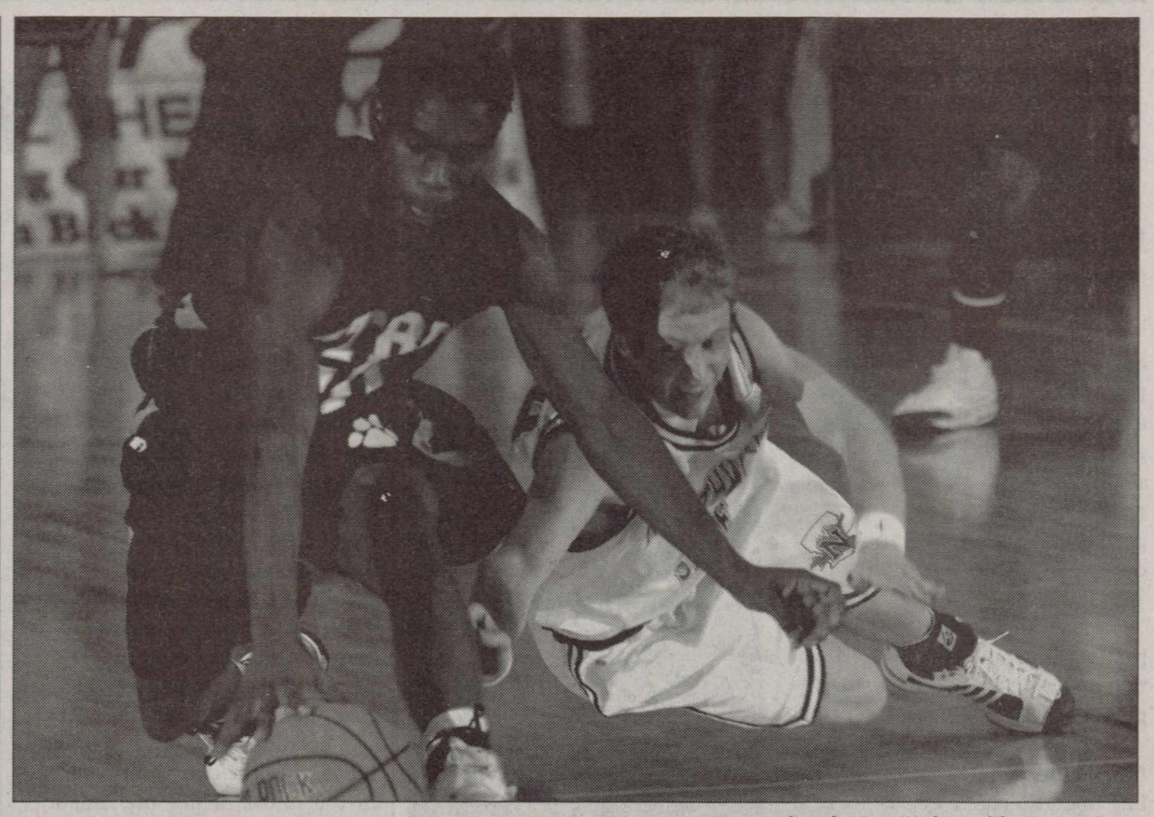


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Michael McConathy (14) dives for the ball in an 87-65 win over East Texas Baptist University.

Demons find solace at home

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Demons entered Thanksgiving week with a lot to be thankful for, coming off a 22-point win over East Texas Baptist University in the home opener.

NSU opened play in the LSU-Invitational the Friday before Thanksgiving with a win over the Centenary Gents, 69-66. Junior point guard Michael McConathy paved the way for the Demons, scoring a career-high 17 points on 5-9 shooting. McConathy drained four 3-pointers on five attempts. He also added four assists and a steal. Sophomore guard Dominic Knight was the only other Demon scoring in double figures, netting 15 in only 23 minutes of action. He shot 6-8 from the field and grabbed five boards.

"I'm tickled to death that we have guys step up coming from different angles," head coach Mike McConathy said. "I mean Dominic Knight had a great game, reminiscent of last year against Sam Houston where he had that kind of game where he got inside and got some 6 -to 8-foot bank shots."

Freshman center William Mosley cleaned the glass for the Demons, grabbing 10 rebounds, the only Demon in double figures in that category. Eleven players saw playing time, as the Demons notched the second win of the season.

"We do have depth, but the depth is only good if everybody that is on the side and that is on the floor bought in to what we're doing," McConathy said. "I'm trying real hard to get them to understand it's about everybody else, it's not about an individual person."

NSU found that to be much more difficult with its next test, battling the LSU Tigers in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. Before the contest, LSU had won 67 consecutive games versus Louisiana schools. The streak started on Dec. 8, 1988.

LSU dominated NSU in the first half, 48-19, putting the game out of reach early. The loss moved the Demons to 2-2. LSU extended the streak to 68 games, with a 91-60 win over the Demons, and added another win to the streak with a six-point win over Centenary five days later.

Thirteen players scored for the Demons, none of whom scored in double figures. LSU's senior guard Marcus Thornton led all scorers with 25, while teammate Bo Spencer was the only other player with double-digit scoring with 10.

NSU continued play in the invitational the day after Thanksgiving with a 77-65 win over Alcorn State. The win marked head coach Mike McConathy's 500th career win.

Junior guard Damon Jones scored a team-high 21 points in only 18 minutes. Sophomore forward Devin White and freshman center Mosley added 15 each, while White recorded a double-double with 12 rebounds. NSU improved its record to 3-2 entering the final game of the invitational against Troy University.

The Demons surrendered 100 points to the Trojans in the Demons' third loss of the season, 100-63.

Coming off its worst defensive performance of the season, NSU entered Prather Coliseum in a rematch with Centenary. After a very competitive win over the Gents, Centenary was looking for revenge.

Senior guard Keithan Hancock led the way for the Demons in scoring with 22, while four other players hit the double figure plateau.

The hoop squad blew a five point lead with just 16 seconds remaining as the Gents forced overtime, tied at 73. Clutch free throw shooting notched the win for the Demons, as NSU outscored the Gents 17-11 in overtime, putting the final score 90-84. NSU shot a perfect 12-12 from the free throw line in overtime.

No place like home for Lady Demons

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

It has been a season of inconsistency for the Lady Demons so far, having alternated wins and losses in the first four games of the year. NSU opened the season on the road Nov. 14 with a 20-point loss to San Diego State.

Four days later, the Lady Demons opened the home season with a 66-53 win over the Southern Jaguars.

Four players scored in double figures, as sophomore guard Jessica McPhail and junior guard Lyndzee Greene led the team with 14 points apiece. Sophomore guard Brooke Shepherd and freshman forward Britany Kinlaw pitched in with 10 each.

NSU struggled from the field, shooting 34.8 percent, so they relied on their defensive strengths, holding Southern University to only 25 percent shooting for the game. The Lady Demons also struggled from the free throw line, knocking down only 15 of 28.

Head coach Jennifer Graf said the percentages for both teams are lacking, but she is more upset by the free throw percentage.

"Both teams were in the bonus very early in the second half. Obviously if you're us, you want to be put in the bonus, and we don't want to be putting teams in the bonus with 12 minutes to go in the second half," Graf said. "This game could have been put away a long time ago, but we just let them keep hanging around."

The Lady Demons finally put Southern away, earning win No. 1 for the season. The Mississippi State Bulldogs were next for NSU, but the road continued to be a hazard. NSU came home from Starkville with a 99-75 loss.

The Lady Demons are now 0-2 on the road. Shepherd led the Lady Demons with 20 points, knocking down four 3-pointers in the contest. Freshman point guard Demetria White added 17 for NSU. Junior forward Sherrion Thomas and McPhail chipped in for 11 and 10, respectively.

Despite the winless road record, the Lady Demons remained unbeaten at home after a 10-point victory over Southern Arkansas University Saturday night. The Lady Demons had five players score in double figures. Junior center Courtney Shead led the Lady Demons with 17. Kinlaw scored 12, while White, Shepherd and McPhail all had 10.

The Lady Demons continued its winning ways at home with a 57-50 victory over the Ladies from Centenary Monday night.

White led NSU with a team high in points and assists with 15 and five, respectively. She also added six rebounds. Kinlaw led the team in rebounds with 16 and contributed nine points to the score.

Upcoming Home Events

Dec. 13	MBBALL	LSU-S	4 p.m.
Dec. 17	WBBALL	Alcorn State	7 p.m.
Dec. 20	WBBALL	LSU-S	2 p.m.
Dec. 22	MBBALL	Southern-NO	7 p.m.
Dec. 30	MBBALL	Miami (OH)	7 p.m.
Jan. 2	WBBALL	Ark.-Monticello	7 p.m.

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 16

This week

Holiday trips

Foreign exchange student sees what the U.S. has to offer.

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Back in the day

Student reflects on how today's generation has tainted his memories.

p. 5

Men's b-ball slump

Team tries to recover from four-game losing streak.

p. 6

Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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3 Life
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Weather

Wednesday 59°/31°

Thursday 44°/25°

Friday 48°/28°

Saturday 57°/39°

Sunday 59°/31°

Monday 63°/37°

Tuesday 61°/36°

Boozman dormitory gets demolished

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

As the semester begins, workers are finishing the demolition process of Boozman Hall, located on Central Avenue.

The co-ed dorm, which gave precedence to students of the Louisiana Scholars' College, is one of many residence halls that are being torn down because of its aging and outdated structure.

Marcus Jones, Vice President for University Affairs, said the university is doing away with the dorms on campus and moving to third-party housing in order to keep up with other universities and to cut back on the cost that comes with maintaining older structures.

"[We would like to] provide a new, nicer environment for the students to attract quality students and to remain competitive," Jones said.

The demolition cost approximately $98,000 as opposed to the $8-12 million it would cost to renovate the building, physical plant director Chuck Bourg said.

"We try to do a campus assessment of some of the buildings we have and determine whether it's worth spending the state's money to renovate them or if it would be better to tear them down and build a brand new one in its place," Bourg said.



Photo by Sarah Cramer/The Current Sauce

The construction team works toward cleaning up the Boozman Hall demolition site.

Elisha Ibanga, sophomore chemistry major, lived in Boozman in fall 2007.

Like many other of its former residents, he faced poor living conditions.

"It was like a prison," Ibanga said. "The walls were gross, the floor was gross, everything was gross."

University officials feel it is in the students' best interest to tear Boozman Hall down, yet not all of the dormitory's former residents agree.

"I think it's stupid that they're tearing down all the dorms to make more expensive living arrangements," Cassie Cannon, senior history major, said.

Cannon, who lived in the dormitory during her first semester at NSU, did not face much damage.

"There was no tile on the bathroom floor, but other than that, everything was fine," Cannon said.

The project was contracted to Regional Construction, who began demolition the week prior to the end of fall semester and is now bringing the process to a close.

"The bulk of the structure has been torn down," Jones said. "They're now just cleaning up debris."

Though the majority of the project is finished, the school has made no final decision as to what is going to happen with the property. However, some ideas have been tossed around.

"We placed it on our five-year plan to have an academic support structure built [where Health Services is now] and a wing built in the same vicinity where Boozman was," Jones said.

Jones added that such a project would have to be approved by the state, which could take up to 10 years.

Until then, the property will remain a green space.

Council meeting reveals budget cuts

David Royal
News Editor

NSU and the Student Government Association hosted the most recent session of the Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) on Dec. 13 and 14.

According to SGA sponsor Yonna Pasch, about 60 students from universities and colleges across the state attended the public meeting. Schools in attendance included McNeese State University, Louisiana State University and six community colleges.

COSBP, which is formed through the Louisiana Board of Regents, comprises the state's collegiate student body presidents and serves as an opportunity for important issues of students and faculty to be addressed.

In this session, the Board of Regents and student body presidents discussed several topics including possibly eliminating the sales tax on textbooks for college students, establishing a more effective university-wide emergency plan and effective recruitment plans present at the different universities and colleges.

The primary issue addressed, however, was the budget cuts the education systems are receiving, SGA president Cody Bourque said.

At the beginning of COSBP, the Board of Regents expected to make a $121 million cut for all higher education, Bourque said.

This would have amounted to roughly a $3.6 million cut for NSU.

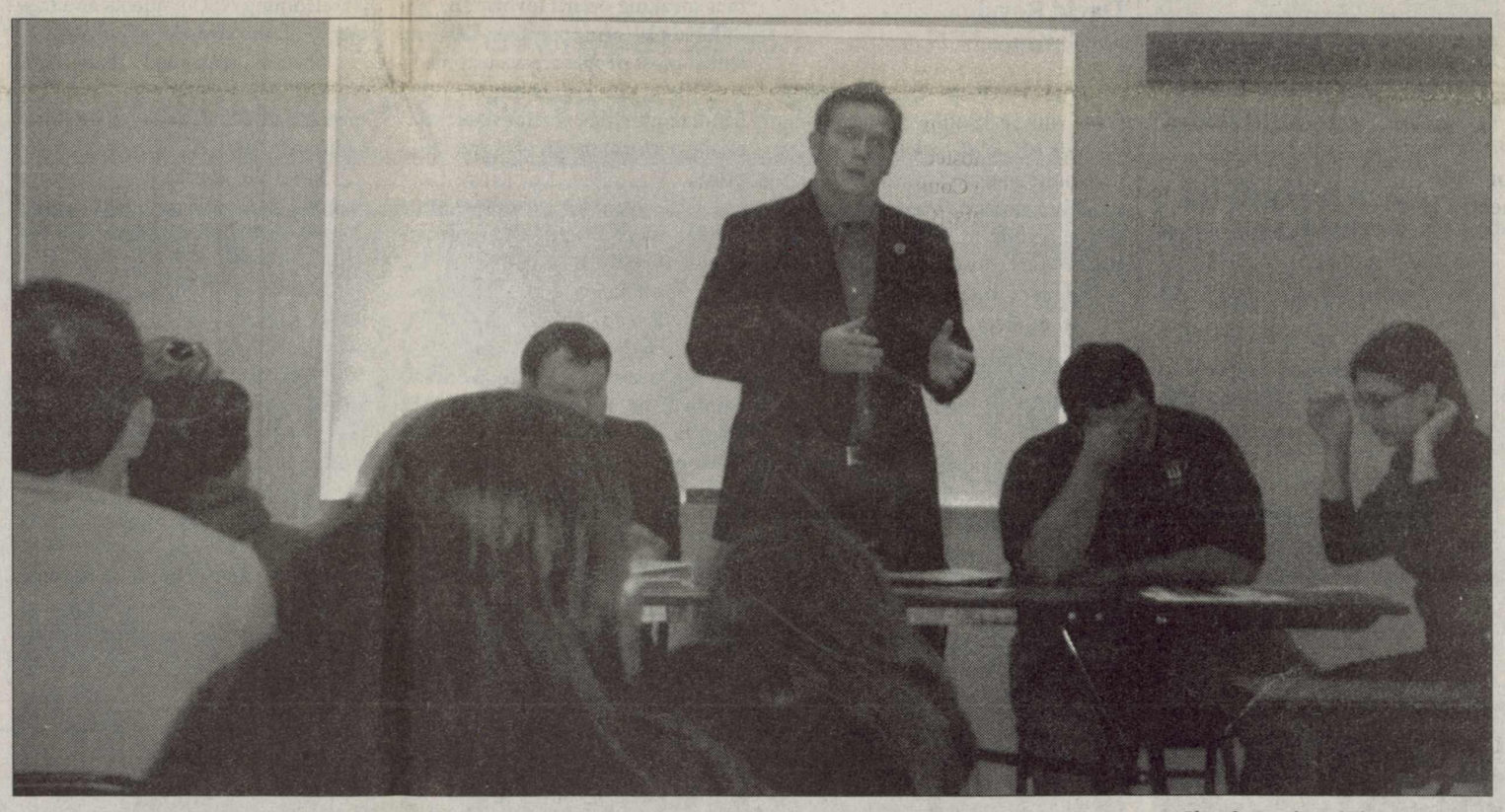


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

SGA president Cody Bourque addresses the organization in its weekly meeting concerning the changes that will be made due to budget cuts. NSU is expected to receive a cut of $2.1 million as part of a recent statewide budget cut.

As a result of actions taken by Gov. Bobby Jindal, however, the Board of Regents told attendees at COSBP that the cuts had been reduced, Bourque said. NSU will now be receiving a cut of about $2.1 million.

Although he said he does not fully understand the situation himself, Bourque said the cuts are partially due to the drop in oil prices, which has decreased the amount of profit the state receives from the tax on oil.

Bourque said NSU's deferred maintenance plan will take the biggest hit from this cut.

Regardless of the negative news he and the other presidents received at COSBP, Bourque said the meeting was still extremely productive and worthwhile.

"You could tell everyone had a good time, and it really brought a lot of praise to the university," Bourque said.

Pasch agreed and said the event as a whole was a success.

"The members of COSBP were very pleased and appreciative of our student government's work," Pasch said.

The students who attended COSBP were brought to Front Street to see the Christmas light show and enjoy the city's firework display, Pasch said.

Pasch said it was an honor to host such an important event at NSU and said she hopes to have more chances like COSBP meeting to show off what the university has to offer.

Bourque agreed by saying, "We put on a great show for those who attended."

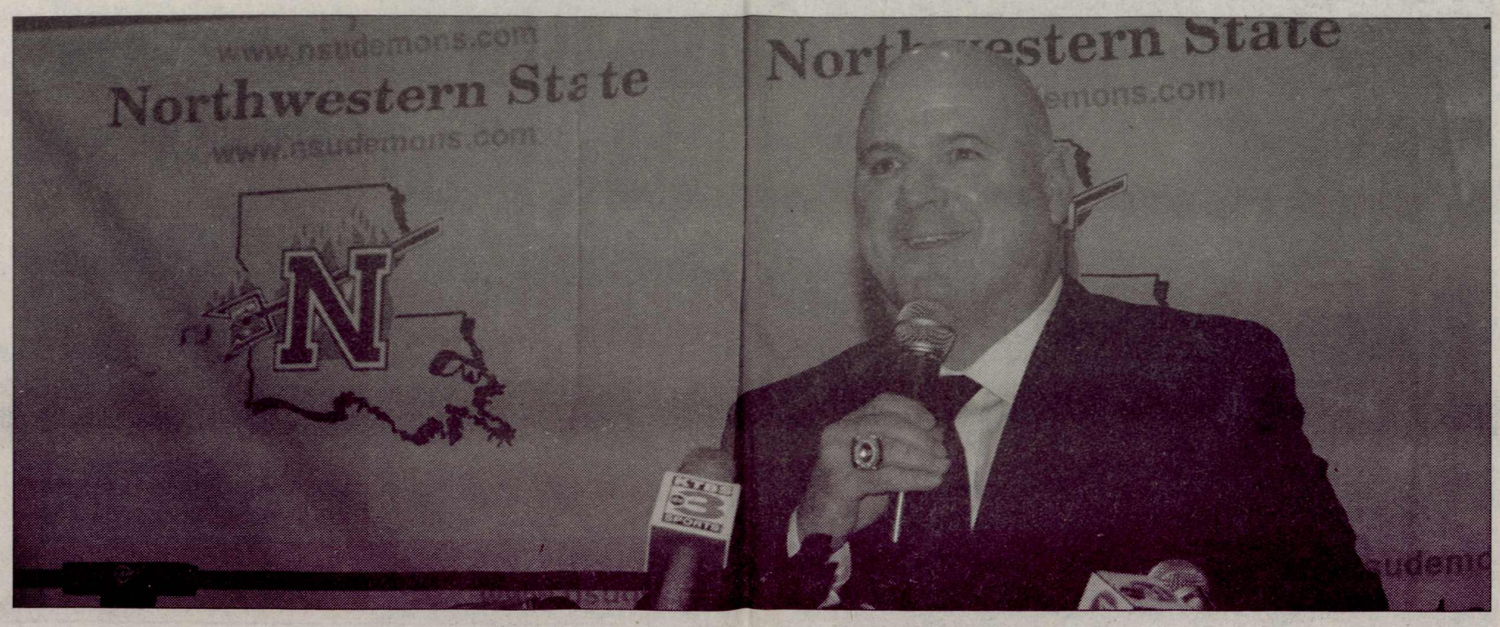


Photo by Gary Hardamon/ The Current Sauce

NSU announced its 13th head coach at a press conference Dec. 22.

Bradley Dale Peveto was named the Demon football head coach after a month-long search.

Peveto coached the Demon football team as defensive coordinator in the 1990s.

To see the full story, check out p. 6.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu

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Top100
Chinese Restaurants in U.S.A.

Grill 155° still under construction

Sodexo reschedules completion date for new dining location

David Royal
News Editor

The reopening of Grill 155° in its new location is anticipated to take place by Feb. 1, Sodexo's general manager, Charles Lear, said.

Sodexo retail manager Vance Howe said the renovation project, which is taking place in the previous location of Chick-fil-A, was originally projected to be completed by the end of September. However, due to problems with leaking and plumbing, the completion date has been pushed back more than once.

Howe said the leaking problem was discovered last semester, and he initially thought the renovation team working on the project – Pat Williams Construction – could alleviate the problem relatively quickly.

After work began on the plumbing, however, Howe said the crew from Pat Williams Construction discovered that it would take longer than expected to find a solution.

Jim Nelson, who works on the project for Pat Williams Construction, explained that part of the work he and his crew had to do consisted of tearing out the interior walls that lined the concrete wall foundation, waterproofing the concrete wall and sealing the brick work of the exterior walls and windows.

"We needed to do a lot more construction than what we deemed possible," Howe said.

Howe said all of this work to correct the plumbing problem lasted essentially the entire fall semester.

Lear justified this by saying that Sodexo is committed to ensuring that its dining facilities are up to code and pleasing to customers.

"You have to do it correctly," Lear said. "To do it right, it sometimes takes longer than expected."

Howe explained that since solving the plumbing problem, the renovation crew has made a great deal of progress and the project is near completion.

Howe said new flooring tile has been placed, the fountain drink machine has been installed and the original sub-pump has been removed to eliminate flooding.

"It's like a completely new building," Howe said.

Howe said the only aspect remaining in the renovation project is the installation of some equipment.

"All that's left is just some last minute stuff," Howe said.

Lear said if everything works out as planned, he hopes to have some sort of Super Bowl party in the new Grill 155° after it opens.



Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

The construction crew takes measurements in the now abandoned dining area in the Friedman Student Union to complete the renovation project before the anticipated February deadline.

Parkway Cinema
1011 Keyser Avenue

movie times

"Bride Wars"
Rated PG
1 hr. 30 min.
6:50 p.m.
8:45 p.m.

"The Unborn"
Rated PG-13
1 hr. 28 min.
7 p.m.
8:50 p.m.

"Bedtime Stories"
Rated PG
1 hr. 35 min.
6:55 p.m.
8:55 p.m.

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
Rated PG-13
2 hrs. 47 min.
7:05 p.m.

"Marley & Me"
Rated PG
2 hrs.
6:40 p.m.
9:00 p.m.

"Gran Torino"
Rated R
1 hr. 56 min.
6:45 p.m.
9:05 p.m.

NSU welcomes 'Columns Classic' competitors

David Royal
News Editor

The NSU speech and debate team will be hosting a tournament for high school debate teams located across the state on Jan. 23 and 24.

The annual tournament will be the second to be hosted by NSU since around the 1980s, Paul Shelton, president of the NSU speech and debate team, said.

The tournament, the "Columns Classic," is expected to be held in Kyser Hall and will consist of 10 events.

Shelton said the 10 events will be broken down into both acting and speaking events, which will allow more options for the competing high school students.

John Croghan, an assistant professor at NSU and a coach for the speech and debate team, explained that speaking events involve the traditional platform speech or debate to which most people are accustomed.

The acting events, on the other hand, require that participants theatrically perform pieces of literature or prose.

Last year, 12 schools within the Louisiana High School Speech League (LHSSL) competed at the NSU tournament, and Shelton said he and his team expect this year's attendance to be about the same.

The majority of the high schools that will be in attendance will be from northwest Louisiana; however, Shelton said one or two schools from south Louisiana did attend last year.

Thus far, the largest problem NSU's speech and debate team has faced while coordinating the Columns Classic is finding enough judges for all the events, Shelton said.

As a result, Shelton said the team is welcoming NSU students and faculty to fill the position of judges.

Shelton explained that there are two primary benefits for NSU's speech and debate team to hold the Columns Classic.

First, the competition provides an additional venue for high school speech and debate teams in the LHSSL to compete.

Shelton said when he was in high school and competed in the LHSSL, there was only one university that hosted a competition – Louisiana State University.

Now that NSU holds the Columns Classic, Shelton said high school students will have another opportunity to show off their talents and do what they enjoy.

The second benefit from the Columns Classic is that high school students will become more recognized with NSU's campus and speech and debate team, Shelton said.

"This competition helps attract people to the university and the sport," Shelton said.

Shelton explained that NSU is among only two other universities – the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and LSU – to be in the LHSSL as host schools, which serves as an effective recruiting tool.

Croghan said he agrees with Shelton.

"If it's a fun tournament, people tend to remember this university and want to come back in the future, whether it be for speech and debate or just simply an education," Croghan said.

Additionally, Shelton expressed the desire to possibly have a summer debate camp for high school students. He said, however, the summer camp will not be possible in the near future unless the team's numbers increase.

This semester, the NSU speech and debate team will be competing in six tournaments at universities located in both Louisiana and Arkansas and hopes to continue to find the success the team had in the fall semester.

Shelton said of all the tournaments this semester, he is looking forward to the Tri-State Championship the most.

He said this is because this will be the first time in two years that NSU will be able to compete in the state championship.

Croghan said he has been pleased with his speech and debate team's performance thus far as well as the work they put into the Columns Classic.

"I really have to give them kudos," Croghan said. "They are truly the hardest workers in the state."

Want to get involved with the Current Sauce?

Attend our meetings every Monday 6:30 p.m. in 227 Kyser Hall

Police Blotter

12/12
3:35 a.m. Moving furniture in office; activated alarm by accident

12/14
10:11 a.m. Dumpster fire at married housing

12/19
2:04 a.m. Couch on fire on Greek Hill; group dispersed

1/3
6:55 p.m. Subject advised not to skateboard on campus

1/11
1:00 p.m. NSU employee called in sick

**The Current Sauce collects the police blotter each week from the University Police.



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1/09

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu

Natchitoches marches on during winter break



Courtesy Photo/Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Fireworks explode over Cane River Lake during the annual display of lights at the Christmas Festival.

Taylor Graves
Sauce Reporter

Pulled by an alligator, a southern Santa made of Christmas lights announces the arrival of the Festival of Lights to NSU students, Natchitoches residents and surrounding tourists.

"This town knows how to celebrate Christmas," Maegan Morace, freshman nutrition major, said. "I love the lights. For a month you feel like you're living in a magical town."

On Nov. 22, the Festival of Lights began with live entertainment, fireworks and a lighting ceremony.

Three hundred thousand lights and 40 set pieces were lit.

This event led the way to weekends full of events, food, fireworks and fun.

The Christmas Festival brings more tourists and money to Natchitoches than any other festival.

NSU was heavily involved in the festival. NSU Cheerleaders, Pom Pon Line and Demon Dazzlers, along with the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band, performed in the Christmas Parade.

Participants for Lady of the Bracelet also rode on a float in the parade on Dec. 6.

NSU organizations helped run the festival and used it as an opportunity to raise money.

ROTC members assisted the Natchitoches Police in guarding the gates surrounding the festival.

Tau Kappa Epsilon pledges sold funnel cakes, hamburgers and "bloomin' onions" on the riverbank to raise money for their chapter.

"It's a great time to get together with everyone and involve ourselves with the most important event Natchitoches has every year," TKE president Steven Morphew, senior psychology major, said.

Weekends after the Christmas Festival were filled with festivities such as arts and crafts shows, fireworks and special Christmas tours at Fort St. Jean Baptiste, Oakland Plantation and Magnolia Plantation.

Fort St. Jean Baptiste displayed 18th century style Christmas decorations throughout December.

On Dec. 13 and 20, reenactors showed visitors how people celebrated Christmas during the 18th century.

The staff of the Oakland and Magnolia Plantations gave special tours of the main houses and grounds, which were adorned with Christmas decorations.

Along with the arts and crafts vendors at the Christmas Festival, two arts and crafts shows were held at the Natchitoches Events Center.

The Fleur de Lis arts and crafts show was Nov. 29 with 65 vendors.

Each vendor sold handmade items such as purses, sandblasted glass and cartoon drawings.

Dec. 13 was the date for the last arts and crafts show of the season.

Each Saturday night, audiences were dazzled by the multitude of colors that filled the sky.

New Year's Eve, at midnight, was the last fireworks display of the season.

Although the events and fireworks ended New Year's Eve, Natchitoches' streets and Cane River Lake stayed lit with Christmas lights until Jan. 6.



Courtesy Photo/Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band marches in the 2008 Christmas Parade down Front Street.

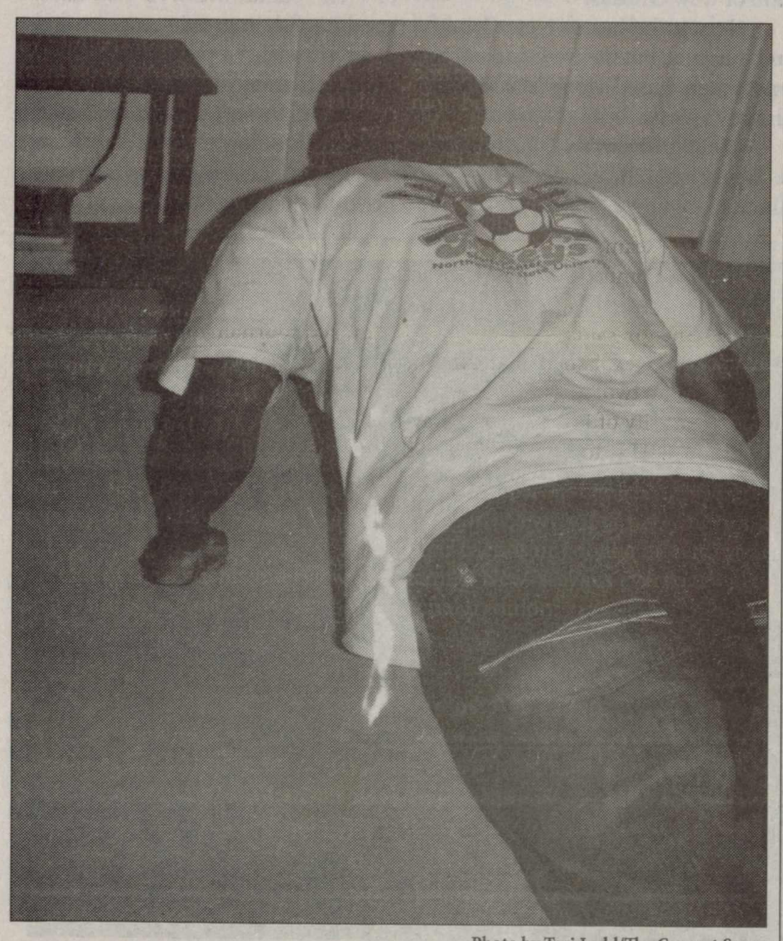


Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

Randy Collins does push-ups to keep his muscles in shape as a part of his New Year's resolution.

Students reflect on New Year's traditions

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Out with the old, in with the new.

While partying, drinking, dancing and singing "Auld Lang Sine," people welcomed 2009.

Around a true southern style meal, people feasted on black-eyed peas for health.

Some ate pork, cabbage or herring for good luck.

Others put change outside the front door for good fortune.

In the buzz around the table, students contemplated their New Year's resolutions.

"What I enjoyed was my close family gathering. We had so much fun talking about our resolutions that we completely missed midnight," junior graphic communications major Danielle Kenny said.

Some vowed to lose weight, exercise more or save more money.

"It's easier to lose muscle than to gain it. So once you gain it you try your hardest to maintain it," senior culinary arts major Randy Collins said.

Out of the students interviewed, most said New Year's Eve is about partying and family.

New Year's Eve, for some, is when all of their families come together and hang out.

"I really enjoyed being around my family for New Year's, it's a tradition that I truly love," junior English education major Christa McAlpin said.

Others felt as though the resolution part is just hype, a fallacy.

"If I can think of one I do, but it's really not something I dwell on. You have to have the willpower, if you don't, it's pointless," Jesse Bruce, senior business administration major, said.

Like Bruce, senior psychology major Gretchun Beverly said that while she strives to be more organized, New Year's resolutions are not a top priority.

"I don't make them because I break them; they're a waste of time. If a person is really dedicated in keeping it I believe it is a goal to set, but if not, it's a waste of time," Beverly said.

Whether it's watching the ball drop in New York, partying with your friends or goofing off with your family, New Year's is everyone's personal tradition.

Fast Fact

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of November 2008, Louisiana's unemployment rate was at 5.3.

FREE TUTORING CAMPUS-WIDE

ACADEMIC CENTER

8:00 am - 8:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Friday
239 KYSER HALL

5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday
208 WRAC

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sunday – Thursday
2ND FLOOR READING ROOM WATSON LIBRARY

Tell someone's story.

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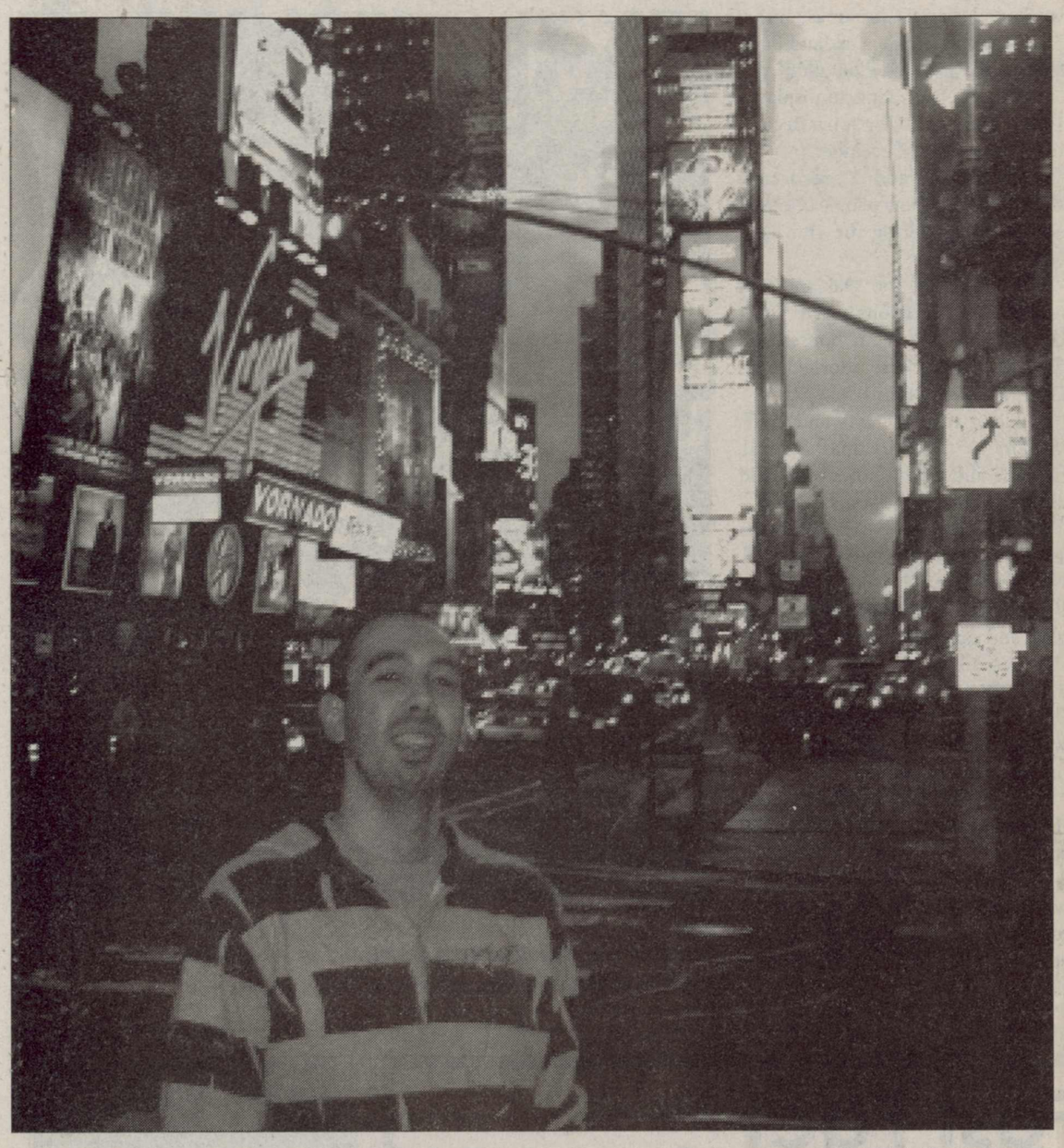
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Tori Ladd
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Student stays far from home for holidays



Courtesy Photo/The Current Sauce

During the winter break, ISEP student Miguel Alvarez Martinez spent nine days in New York City, which gave him a chance to see Times Square.

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief

Many NSU students spent the almost four-week winter break back in their hometowns, opening Christmas presents with their families and popping firecrackers for New Year's Eve.

That wasn't the case for everyone, though.

Twenty-four-year-old English major Miguel Alvarez Martinez couldn't make it home for the holidays because it wouldn't have taken the average three-hour drive to get there.

To get to Martinez's hometown of Orense, Spain, he would have to travel an entire day before making it home for Christmas.

Add on top of that jet lag and adjusting to the seven-hour time difference, and the result is one hard trip, which is exactly why Martinez decided to forego the holiday journey.

Instead, he took a few smaller trips to celebrate the holidays and occupy his time.

In place of heading home to Spain, Martinez spent his Christmas holiday traveling across the United States - to New York City, Boston, Chicago and Miami.

He spent nine days in New York City and stayed in Harlem, hanging out with people he met along the way.

He said he enjoyed Harlem and the friendly people he met there.

He said he chose to go to New York because "it's a place where everybody goes."

Martinez stayed in hostels in each town to keep his costs low.

He also booked bargain flights and tried to find the best deals around the holidays.

Martinez spent four days in Boston beginning on Christmas day because New York got too expensive.

He said he has good memories of Boston, especially the food.

His memories of Chicago, however, were not so positive.

He said the hostel in Chicago was the worst hostel he had ever stayed in because it was "creepy and old." Martinez then spent six days in Miami.

Each Christmas, Martinez and his five immediate family members get together for dinner.

He called it "an excuse for us to be together., and he said his family is very close.

However, he said his family was fine with his decision to stay in the U.S. over the break.

Martinez said his family understands that this is his first time in the country, and they want him to make the most of his time here and discover new cities, which is exactly what he did.

All of Martinez's trips taught him about United States culture.

He said it was interesting to hear the different dialects in each town, especially New York City, and he noted the difference in pronunciation of New Orleans.

He said he hears "New Orlins" in Louisiana, but the New Yorkers he encountered used a long "e" sound in the city's name.

While in New York, he went to a Baptist church service that lasted about three hours.

As a Catholic who is used to 40-minute Masses, he said he gave up after an hour but still really enjoyed the experience.

Martinez is attending NSU through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) and is the university's only current ISEP student, but he isn't the only one who is a long way from home.

The 2008 NSU Factbook recorded 49 students enrolled at NSU in 2008 who claim a home country other than the United States.

Two NSU students have left their home country to study abroad through ISEP this year, according to Steve Horton, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, who coordinates ISEP at NSU.

Martinez chose to come to Louisiana, and NSU accepted him.

He has attended NSU since August 2008 and is studying English in hopes to later teach English back at home in Orense, Spain.

He said he likes Louisiana, but he is still reminded that he is not in Spain.

"Everything here is so, so different," Martinez said.

Martinez graduates in a year but not from NSU because he isn't quite finished studying abroad.

He said he is asking around to find out how to spend that last year of school in the United Kingdom or even Poland, which he said has a good English linguistic program and is an affordable option thanks to a European grant program.

Martinez isn't headed to Poland right away, though.

He said he already has his plane ticket to Spain for May.

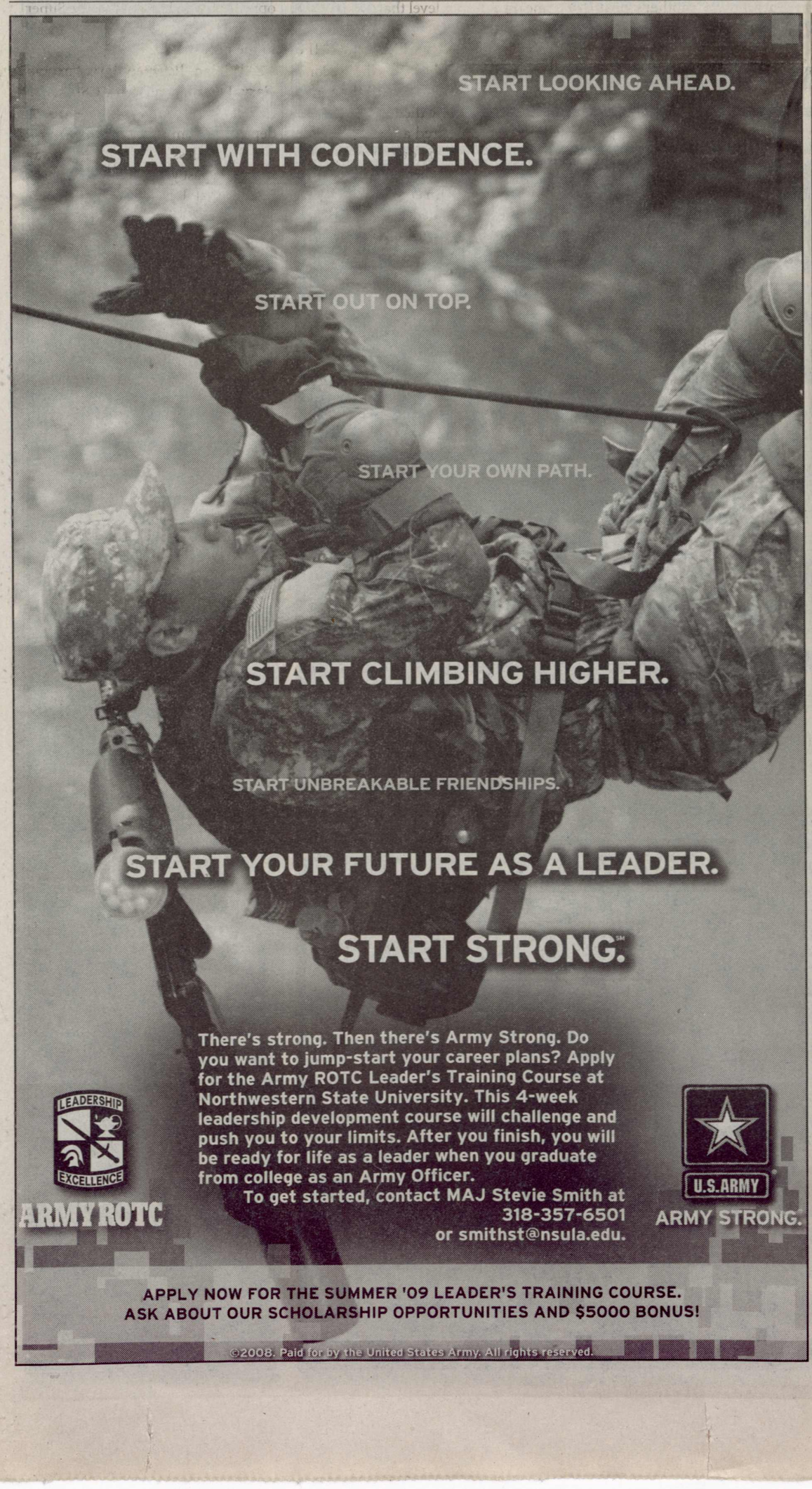




Photo Illustration by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Read this article later

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Procrastination typically involves watching television or playing Rock Band instead of doing homework, but some NSU students find more productive things to do while they put off working on major assignments.

Sophomore health and human performance major Brittany Gunner said she thinks procrastination can be positive.

Gunner said she puts off writing papers until the last minute, though many teachers give due dates for their assignments on the syllabus during the first day of class.

"For me, it's a good thing, because when I'm pressured to do something, I do it. At the last minute, when the pressure's on, I'm good at it," Gunner said.

Some students seek the adrenaline rush associated with a final deadline.

To achieve that last-chance excitement, students occasionally work on projects for extracurricular organizations or academic requirements.

Whether it's a research paper, a graduate school application or even just an e-mail, many tasks require concentration that people avoid.

One benefit of being in many different college courses at once is that there are plenty of other things to do while procrastinating.

Scientific American magazine recently reported that 80 to 95 percent of college students procrastinate at least on occasion, and 20 percent of adults are habitual procrastinators – meaning they put off just about everything, including things that should be done right away.

Lou-Anne Williams, who is working toward her Master's in heritage resources at NSU, was one of the students who chose not to procrastinate by showing up at Prather Coliseum on Monday morning for fee payment. She described procrastination as doing something other than what you're supposed to be doing.

"Let's say you have two weeks to do a project and you've procrastinated for the two weeks, and it's the night beforehand. You're like,'Oh, shoot. Now I have to do this, what am I going to do?'"

When Williams reaches that point, it's usually because she is working on many assignments at once. Williams works on her projects in the order of their due dates. If she has two projects due on one day, she said she tries to finish the project worth the most points first.

"Usually it's because I'm not ready to work on that specific project, and so I've actually gotten to the point where I procrastinate by doing other class work," she said.

"I wonder if that would actually be considered procrastinating by most people."

According to an article in the November issue of Scientific American, it's not. The article, "Procrastinating Again? How To Kick The Habit," states that procrastination involves delaying work on projects that are more consequential than others.

But Merriam-Webster defines the word "procrastinate" as "to put off intentionally and habitually" or "to put off intentionally the doing of something that should be done."

Studies suggest that people procrastinate due to uneasy feelings about an activity and a desire to avoid discomfort.

People who are indecisive or distracted may also procrastinate severely, putting off things that should be handled immediately.

One psychology study conducted in 2006 showed that procrastinators had higher stress levels than others included in the study.

Fuschia Sirois, the psychologist who conducted the study with 254 adults, concluded that people who put off medical checkups also had more acute health problems.

Early detection of cancer cells and other medical malformations can save lives, so, in some cases, procrastination can even be deadly.

For the most part, though, students who put off writing term papers aren't in any immediate danger.

Joe Cunningham
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January 14, 2009

Half the Battle:
Those who forget the past

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



I have come to the conclusion that today's children are responsible for the death of anything I held dear in my childhood.

Not all of what is being produced is terribly bad, mind you. There's just a lot more crap than anything that is worthwhile.

For some of the older readers (and those who have tastes in older music), how wonderful was Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus"? It was a great song.

Then, Marilyn Manson did a cover of the song, following Johnny Cash's cover. Not one of those versions was bad.

Not nearly as good as the original, mind you, but not bad.

Then, Hilary Duff came out with a song called "Reach Out," which featured music and vocal melodies akin to those in "Personal Jesus."

However, in the song (you can really get it by looking at the video, which may or may not be work safe), she is essentially whoring herself out to the unnamed male she's singing to.

Now, I cannot begin to describe the pain this song causes me, but imagine grabbing a porcupine by the back and then sticking your hand in a jar of salt. Perhaps you will come close.

It's not just music, either. Nothing is sacred to the up-and-coming youngsters who can take the classics like "Personal Jesus" and obliterate them.

Commercials are another way of showing us that we are letting things get out of hand. They are reflecting our culture.

Because of commercials, I now know that we are the laziest civilization ever.

I came to this realization as I saw a commercial with a little girl talking about how she hated counting her Monopoly money. Then, she talked about the joys of the newest Monopoly board, which featured a credit card machine.

Remember the sense of satisfaction, knowing you had something of your very own?

No, let's take away the reinforced counting skills and financial conservation skills that Monopoly teaches us.

Instead, we shall teach young children the joys of using credit cards early so that, later in life, they can spend effortlessly with little pieces of plastic that destroy lives.

Remember Legos?

I used to build huge castles after buying a box for about $10.

There were sets, too. Indiana Jones, ninjas, knights, and even a Harry Potter set or two… nothing like that anymore.

How often do you see Legos even being advertised? How many children even ask for them or know what they are?

Children, put away your electronic Monopoly and Hilary Duff albums. Go read Dr. Seuss and play with some Legos. Play the classic Monopoly, or at least the Disney version.

Stop sticking the knife in my heart.

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Be Frank: Don't wait 'til the ball drops

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



People wait for the ideal moment to change their lives.

They close their eyes and make a wish as they blow out a birthday candle.

They close their eyes as they kiss a penny and throw it in a well. They close their eyes after they see a shooting star.

People hope that somehow these moments will change their lives. On New Year's Eve, more than 1 million spectators gathered at Times Square while an estimated 100 million joined them at home in front of their televisions and watched an 11,875-pound lighted ball fall to the ground, according to cnn.com.

They then watched as fireworks and confetti shot off into the sky, and began the new year with a kiss.

They clanged their glasses together and began their new year with a shot. They raised their voices high in song and in shouts and welcomed the promises of the new year.

They pledged to be better. They took one moment in time and decided that was the starting point. That was going to make them something more.

Now they would be better fathers, better lovers, better students. They would quit drinking, smother their last cigarette, go to the gym daily.

They would become more than what they are. More than what they thought they were.

People shouldn't count down the minutes to make a change. They shouldn't watch with glazed-over eyes at the glowing ball to signify they will be better. What significance does a ball have? It is used in sporting events. Players fight to have control of the ball in order to win a game, score a goal, make a touchdown, send it out of the park.

But why do they wait for this ball to fall to the ground? Nothing is achieved; no goal is made. Life is about chances and the free will to take them and run. You cannot wait for a ball to drop to make a difference. You cannot wait to pass through the lines of fee payment to become a better student. You cannot wait for the slim chance of a shooting star to make your wishes come true.

You need to take the ball and play the game. You need to step off the bench. Quit waiting for something more and make it happen.

If you spend your entire life waiting for a ball to drop, then you will spend your entire life staring at the sky when you could be making something better of yourself in the world.

But it takes more than recognizing a moment. After realizing that something needs to change, you need to make it happen. Sweat and time and effort need to be put in to make things better.

The world isn't going to drop itself in your lap changed and better just because of a pledge made when a ball dropped.

It is time to recognize what potential there is and make something happen. Not because a ball dropped or you made a wish, but because you looked in the mirror one day and realized you wanted more.

New year brings new hope

Richelle Stephens
Staff Columnist



When 2009 finally arrived, I could have sworn that I heard a great sigh of relief.

However, it was probably just the ne'er-do-wells firing off their guns behind my mother's northern Dallas condo.

Regardless, it would have been understandable if instead I heard that great exhalation.

The past year has indeed been one of those in our nation's history that shall be remembered for reasons both good and bad.

In this case, however, it seems as though the unfortunate events far outnumber the pleasant ones.

We all knew that the economy wasn't in the best shape, for gas prices were at an all-time high and people were trading in their trucks and SUVs for fuel-efficient sedans so that they may save money.

But that should have been the least of people's worries in that regard as news of sour mortgages and refinancing wreaked havoc on Wall Street and the government tried – and failed – to save banks.

And now that the "big three" American automakers are struggling and flailing their arms about in a financial whirlpool, our economy is once again at the brink of collapse.

Earlier I was perusing the Yahoo! "2008 year in review" page, and when I happened upon the "Farewells" page, there were more than a few names on that list that touched me on a deeper level than what I typically experience.

Heath Ledger died, and "The Dark Knight" became the second highest grossing film of all time.

Estelle Getty died, and the Lifetime network aired a "Golden Girls" marathon the next day.

Bernie Mac died, and I cried the next time I saw an episode of his brilliant yet underrated sitcom.

The deaths of Tim Russert, George Carlin and Isaac Hayes, among others, made this a particularly difficult year for Hollywood.

Despite all of the aforementioned negativity, there of course were the moments that almost made the year "worth it."

My heart soared and a smile spanned the length of my face when I watched as Barack Obama addressed his supporters for the first time as President-elect.

I cheered as Jim proposed to Pam on "The Office," and I almost emptied my bank account when I discovered that NBC Universal would once again allow for iTunes to sell episodes of their programs.

But I digress.

However, it was mostly a depressing time in my life.

The Cowboys were denied an opportunity to bring one more Super Bowl title to Dallas before they move to the new stadium.

William Petersen, Jorja Fox and Gary Dourdan all left "CSI:" in a move reminiscent of David Caruso's departure from "NYPD Blue."

Regardless, if I walked away from this past year with nothing else, I hope that I have at least learned that there are indeed more important things to life than overpaid actors leaving top-rated television shows and football teams losing their chance at playoff glory.

If what all had happened in 2008 taught myself and the rest of humankind anything, then I hope it was that at the end of the day, despite what happened to you earlier, you still have your life, and that's more important than manmade ruin.

In tough economy, SGA president values education

Cody Bourque
SGA President



Before the break, NSU hosted my fellow colleagues from around the state for our Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents meeting.

While we arranged for the group to come in December and enjoy all that the "City of Lights" offers in the way of Christmas cheer, we did not expect to hear the news that higher education was getting the metaphorical equivalent gift of socks while expecting a new PlayStation game.

The news was that mid-year budget cuts were going to be slashed deep into higher education.

At the meeting, $109 million was expected to be cut from higher education because higher education and health care are not constitutionally mandated to be funded.

For NSU that would have been $3.6 million.

The $341 million in mid-year cuts is the result of falling oil prices (which is interesting all in itself) and the current economic state.

A few weeks later, Gov. Bobby Jindal decided to make the cuts across the board, reducing NSU's burden to $2.1 million.

While any number with more than six digits is hard to swallow when it comes to funding, things are going to be getting tighter around the university, but it is not a time to panic.

A hiring freeze and the curtail on spending are immediate effects of the cuts, but as the semester goes on we will know what the further impact will be for the next fiscal year.

This time will define our university for years to come, but trust that our university will meet these challenges with the utmost diligence and still provide the quality education that students have been receiving for 125 years.

As for student self-assessed fees, which are a different animal because they are managed and overseen by students, conservative spending needs to be the mindset because even though the fees are determined by enrollment and should be constant for this upcoming semester, who knows what the next academic year will bring?

University enrollment is said to increase in hard economic times.

If you Google "university enrollment economy" you will see promising headlines, all citing students who want to further their education and improve their future.

Things may seem bleak in many places we look, but at Northwestern State, no matter what cuts may come, I have faith that the columns will continue to be a beacon of success for higher education.

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McCain supporter puts trust in alternative

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



Although he is not the guy I wanted, I am hoping Barack Obama will prove people wrong and be a great president. When we get something new, we get rid of the old. The same happens when we get a new president, we say goodbye to a president.

The last eight years of the Bush administration have been filled with so many different things that no one could have ever seen coming.

The Bush term started off on a rough note. The Sept. 11 attacks were roughly eight months after President Bush was sworn in, forcing him to make a whole new game plan for his upcoming years as president.

I applaud him on his ability to look past a tragedy and his success in keeping America safe since then. Our country has not seen another terrorist attack since President Bush took charge and chose to fight the enemy instead of letting them be.

Since he was sworn in, President Bush has always shown a deep love for his country. Although some might disagree with some choices he has made, I believe those choices were made because he cares more about our country than he does about his approval ratings.

When people started disagreeing with what he did, he did not budge. He chose his country over himself, and that is a quality I wish so many more people had. It is so easy to watch the president and think we know better, but it is not our place to tear him down. Instead, we should lift our leaders up.

Being a president does not just require riding in a limo, making speeches and kissing babies. It involves many sleepless nights, long flights and constantly being in the public eye. We live in an amazing country where ordinary citizens have the right to serve in public office.

We have a Texas governor who talks funny as our president, and that man helped keep America how it has always been.

As we swear in Barack Obama, I pray that everyone will accept him as our president. Whether we voted for him or not, he will be our president in a few short days, and it is our duty to respect and support him.

On Jan. 20, Barack Obama will, with his hand on the Bible, swear to "protect and defend the constitution of the United States of America."

His responsibility is to make sure, like President Bush did, that our country stays strong, prosperous and great. I wish him luck and he has my prayers.

No reason to keep burning Bush

David Royal
News Editor



Jan. 20 will mark a day that many people in America have eagerly awaited for up to eight years.

Our current president, George W. Bush, will step down from his position and we will welcome Barack Obama as our commander in chief for the next four years. Now, the vast majority of our population has made it crystal clear how they feel about Bush.

Throughout the majority of his terms it was common to see someone on Saturday Night Live impersonating Bush and bashing his blunders. Merchandise, such as the George W. Bush Out of Office Countdown box calendar, were often purchased.

This reveals a great deal about our society. Our society's words and actions have shown that we simply have no respect for Bush – our president. Come on now, the man has been the leader of our country for the past eight years and most people act like he is just some average Joe on the side of the street.

Obviously, the man did something right to be elected two terms in a row, and he did not deserve to be treated the way he was while in office.

Many of you reading this are probably thinking to yourself that you didn't vote for Bush and therefore do not have to like him, and I agree. I personally did not vote for Obama in the election and I do not like the fact that he will be leading our country, but as an American citizen it is my duty to follow and respect him come Jan. 20.

In addition, it was everyone else's duty to have done the same for Bush while he was in office. Say what you will about Bush, but he could have done horrendously worse. Yes, he has made quite a few decisions that I disagree with, but I cannot imagine how I would've done if I were in his shoes. In his first term alone, Bush had to deal with more difficult circumstances than many past American presidents.

From the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, Bush faced numerous crises during which he had to try to bring our nation together and overcome hardship. Bush handled these situations to the best of his abilities, and there are not many people who could have done much better.

So, President Bush, I would just like to say thank you and goodbye.

Sports

Fletcher Jonson
Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editors
January 14, 2009

Demon football finds familiar face

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Northwestern State named Bradley Dale Peveto as the 13th head coach of Demon football in the program's 101-year history.

Peveto is no stranger to Demonland. The former LSU co-defensive coordinator spent three years at the same position for NSU from 1996-1998 under Sam Goodwin, NSU's winningest head coach.

Peveto was named the head coach Dec. 18 after a national search started on Nov. 25.

"I'm really proud to be the head football coach," Peveto said. "When you start looking at the opportunity to get the head job, a lot of things go through your mind – the calls, the texts, the e-mails. We were breathtaken, and we really appreciate it, and we are looking forward to being part of this community again."

After nearly a month of searching, he was chosen to replace former Demon head coach Scott Stoker. Stoker's contract was not renewed after winning 43 games and losing 38 in his seven-year stint at his alma mater, failing to reach the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs since 2004.

"Scott Stoker is a very good friend of mine and did a nice job here," Peveto said at his introductory press conference in December. "He had a great staff. We're in a tough business sometimes. Football is tough, but Scott is a Demon. He bleeds purple and white. He is leaving Northwestern State in good hands for us to take over."



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

NSU's new head football coach Bradley Dale Peveto addresses the crowd at his introductory press conference on Dec. 22.

During Peveto's career as a Demon, he won two Southland Conference titles, including a 12-2 season in 1997 that ended in a home loss in the semifinals of the then-Division 1-AA playoffs to Massachusetts.

"This is a new day, folks," Director of Athletics Greg Burke said at the press conference. "It's a new day for the loyal fans who have always been there for us. Everybody knows football. We play great football here, and we are going to play greater football under Brad."

Peveto started his coaching career at Trinity Valley Community College after graduating from Southern Methodist University in 1987.

He spent a year there as the secondary coach before joining the Demons' bitter rivals, Stephen F. Austin in 1988.

He served as the defensive line, linebacker, secondary and special teams coordinator with the Lumberjacks until 1991.

He then spent two years at Southern Mississippi, where he served as outside linebackers coach and special teams coordinator before taking on the role of nearly the same position at the University of Arkansas.

He headed the linebackers and served as the special teams coordinator until 1996, when he joined the Demon staff.

After his time with NSU was over, Peveto coached at the University of Houston and Middle Tennessee, specializing in defensive positions, before joining LSU's staff in 2005.

Peveto has faced big game pressure before. His LSU defense helped lead the Tigers to the BCS National Championship in 2008. In four seasons with the Tigers, his defenses gave up an average of only 11 points per game in the four bowl game appearances. The Ohio State Buckeyes scored 24 points in the 2008 BCS National Championship game, the most allowed in a bowl game since Peveto joined the staff.

Peveto is very familiar with success on the gridiron as well. While at Southern Methodist, Peveto played in three bowl games as a defensive back.

SMU defeated the University of Pittsburgh 7-3 in the Cotton Bowl in 1983. Later that year, after another season, SMU lost to Alabama in the Sun Bowl.

Peveto's last bowl appearance as a player proved to be a successful showing, beating Notre Dame in the Aloha Bowl in 1984.

Peveto earned numerous awards for his performance on the field and for his character at SMU. He was named a member of the 1984 SWC All-Academic team.

Coming off a 7-5 record in 2008, Northwestern State football appears to be on the rise. Peveto inherits a group losing only 13 seniors.

"In the coaching profession, there's a lot of places you can end up all over the country, and I can't think of a better place to raise my children and have my family move than Natchitoches, Louisiana, and this community," Peveto said. "This is going to be a lot of fun."

Only two seniors are lost from the "Purple Swarm" defense that ranked as one of the best in the conference last season. The two who will be missed are linebacker Mack Dampier and safety Justin Perry.

Men's basketball					
Jan. 14	@ Southeastern	7 p.m.	Jan. 28	@ S.F.A.	7 p.m
Jan. 17	TAMU-CC	2 p.m.	Jan. 31	U.C.A.	2 p.m.
Jan 24	@ Nicholls	5 p.m	Feb. 4	@ McNeese	7 p.m.

All games are conference matches

Women's basketball					
Jan. 14	Southeastern	7 p.m.	Jan. 28	S.F.A.	7 p.m.
Jan 17.	@ TAMU-CC	1 p.m.	Jan. 31	@ U.C.A.	4 p.m.
Jan. 24	@ Nicholls	2 p.m.	Feb. 4	McNeese	7 p.m.

All games are conference matches

Men's basketball team endures rough patch

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The Christmas holiday left the Demon basketball team with a lump of coal in its stocking that ended with a 69-60 loss in the Southland Conference opener against Nicholls State.

With a combination of the Colonels shooting 51 percent from the field and 26 turnovers by the Demons, Nicholls had a 34-22 point advantage at halftime.

Coming out of the halftime break, the first six minutes were not much better for the Demons as the Colonels went on a 13-5 run extending their lead to 20.

The Demons, starting with 13:49 left in the game, went on a 20-3 run that spanned more than six minutes of the game tied the game up at 52 apiece with a little under five minutes remaining in the game.

The Demons would not be any closer than three points for the rest of the game, with the final being 69-60, Nicholls State.

"It was one of those games where we got down early, and we had to fight so hard to get back into, by the time we did we just ran out of steam," head coach Mike McConathy said.

Senior forward Kalem Porterie led the Demons in scoring with 14 points on six of seven shooting, while junior guard Michael McConathy added 13 points and six assists.

True freshman forward William Mosley led the team in rebounding with 11.

"We just couldn't get anything going early. By the time we did we were down so much we had to claw are way back, and, like Coach [McConathy] said, we just ran out of steam," sophomore forward Devin White said.

The winter break started off great for the Demons with an 84-76 victory over Houston Baptist and a 92-64 victory over Southern University at New Orleans.

The Demons had five players in both games score double digits

Then the Demons traveled to Fayetteville, Ark., to take on the Arkansas Razorbacks, and things looked promising as the Demons held an 8-2 lead four minutes into the game.

However, things would soon go downhill.

NSU had 29 turnovers, 20 of which were in the first half in route to a 95-56 shellacking.

The Demons then played host to the second half of a home-and-home with the University of Miami (OH) where in the first meeting the Demons lost 94-66, held their own this time and lost a nailbiter 69-68.

The Demons then had an embarrassing loss to the Oklahoma State Cowboys by a score of 122-73.

Those three games plus the loss to Nicholls State leaves the Demons at 8-8 on the season and 0-1 in conference.

"The four-game losing streak has hit us at the worst possible time," McConathy said. "You don't want to go into conference with a three-game losing streak and then lose the conference opener. It's not the way we have hoped to have started conference, but I feel we can turn things around really quickly."

The Demons will travel to Thibodeaux, La., to play the Southeastern Louisiana University Lions and will play host this Saturday to the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Islanders.

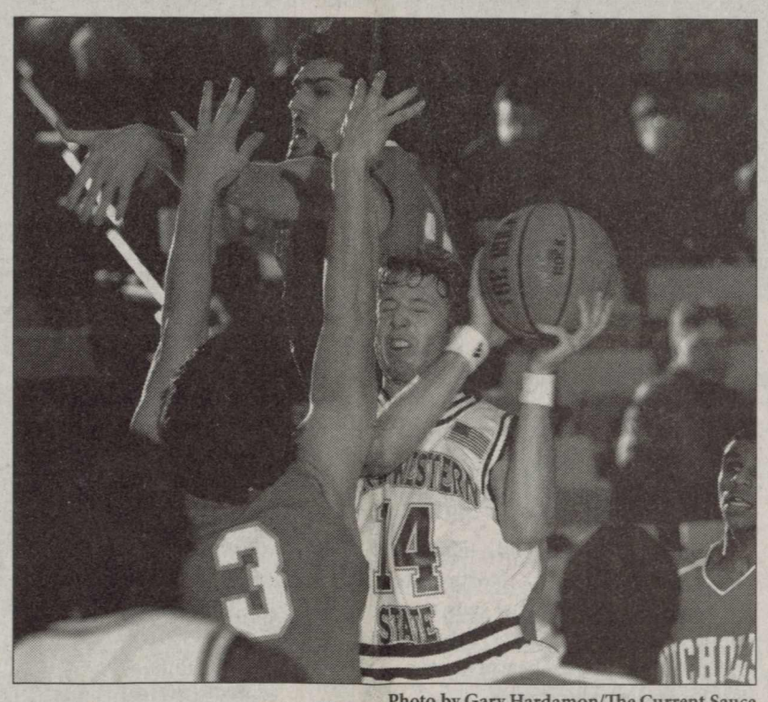


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Junior point guard Michael McConathy (14) battles Colonel defenders in the Demons' 69-60 conference opening loss.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Jessica McPhail (5) applies defensive pressure in the team's win.

Lady Demon bench boosts team record

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The Lady Demons in the past two seasons have started conference out pretty slowly, losing the first four Southland Conference games.

This year the team plays three of its first four conference games at home, where it is 7-0 on the season.

The first was the Nicholls State game where the Demons won 73-58.

The bench played a pivotal role in the Lady Demons' victory, outscoring the Lady Colonels bench 38-8.

Freshman forward Britany Kinlaw led the team in scoring with 14 points on seven of eight shooting in only 15 minutes.

Kinlaw also added seven rebounds.

Senior guard Renotta Edwards was second in scoring for the Lady Demons with 12 points.

Both were part of the lopsided bench output.

"We played well as a team," head coach Jennifer Graf said. "If we can continue to get that kind of production from our bench every game and play defense the way we did, we are going be tough to beat."

The defense as mentioned by Graf forced the Lady Colonels into 32 turnovers and also never let them close within 14 points in the entire second half.

"This is a good way for us to start out conference. A big win like this gives us the confidence boost we need to play well," Graf said.

The Lady Demons will host the Southeastern Louisiana University Lady Lions tonight at Prather Coliseum as they look to move its record to 2-0 in SLC play.

"This team [SELA] is a solid team. They play well on both ends of the court," Graf said.

Even though conference has started, the Lady Demons were busy during the Christmas break.

NSU played six games over the break, going 4-2 in that stretch.

The Lady Demons' break started with a 68-32 victory over Louisiana State University-Shreveport on Dec. 20, led by freshman forward Keke Goodson and senior guard Akilah Givens, who scored 12 and 11 points respectively.

Then after Christmas, NSU traveled to Oxford, Miss., for the Ole Miss Holiday Classic.

The Lady Demons played host to Ole Miss and lost 92-64.

The only bright spot for NSU was freshman forward Britany Kinlaw, who scored a team-high 14 points on seven of nine shooting.

The second game in the Classic was against the University of Tennessee-Martin where they fell short 59-53.

After the New Year, the Lady Demons returned home to play against the University of Arkansas-Monticello and the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

The Lady Demons were victorious in both with scores of 86-69 and 83-70, respectively.

"The Christmas break was good for us. We had a lot of players come in and work on their shot, and that will definitely help us out throughout the rest of the season," Graf said.

Graf's young squad looks to stay on track in the conference race with a win tonight against the Lady Lions of Southeastern in Prather Coliseum. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 17

This week

SAB in the spring

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Sign me up

Student expresses his opinion on the military using video games as recruiting tool. p. 5

Overrated birds

Studen describes his shock and skepticism toward the Arizona Cardinals. p. 6

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Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Weather

Wednesday 62°/38°

Thursday 77°/51°

Friday 72°/47°

Saturday 53°/39°

Sunday 59°/48°

Monday 75°/53°

Tuesday 66°/37°

$2.1M budget cut slices operating costs

David Royal
News Editor

In response to a $2.1 million budget cut they received from the Louisiana Board of Regents, NSU officials are making changes to reduce the university's operating costs.

The budget cut announced in December is part of a $121 million cut of all higher education.

NSU President Randall J. Webb said the university essentially has two options to deal with this financial hit. NSU can either try to increase its revenue or make cuts in its costs.

Because NSU is in the middle of its fiscal year, Webb said obtaining higher revenue is virtually impossible, which leaves making cuts.

He said these cuts include reducing travel costs and the amount of supplies purchased.

"We always try to be good stewards of what we have, but mid-year budget cuts are always difficult to work with," Webb said.

Webb said the university has an additional problem.

"The $2.1 million is just one figure we have to consider because we are now also absorbing other costs that the state usually takes care of," Webb said.

Along with the budget cut, the state is now requiring NSU to cover the costs of programs such as State GO grants and dual enrollment, Webb said.

Although he said he and other university officials will not have an exact idea of how much funds the additional state programs will require until around the 14th day of class – the official report date for all public universities – Webb said he and his staff have already begun to prepare.

Vice President of Business Affairs Carl Jones said NSU officials are currently assessing the needs of every department and unit within the university, so that they can spend their funds most efficiently and draw as much monetary support for the upcoming situation.

"The university is reviewing all our options," Jones said.

Like Webb, Jones said at this time he is still trying to gauge NSU's financial circumstance.

"We aren't even sure of the magnitude of the situation," Jones said.

In addition to reviewing budgets, NSU officials have frozen the university's accounts, which means nothing is being purchased and no one is being hired, Webb said. He added that the accounts will probably remain frozen until the end of the fiscal year.

Webb explained, however, that not every aspect of NSU's budget is remaining frozen.

Areas of the budget that will need funds throughout the fiscal year, which Webb called "mission critical" areas, will have access to the accounts.

After they are informed of how much the absorbed state programs will cost the university, NSU officials may have to make additional changes, Webb said.

"It may force us to look more inward at the way we are operating," Webb said.

Webb explained that by "inward" he means not only reducing the amount spent on supplies or travel, but also on staff.

"We might possibly have to significantly cut the number of adjunct professors used," Webb said.

Student Government Association President Cody Bourque said he and the SGA are looking to find more permanent solutions to the potential financial crisis.

For the past semester, the SGA has been researching ways to obtain more funds from student fees through part-time students and students taking both Internet and traditional classes.

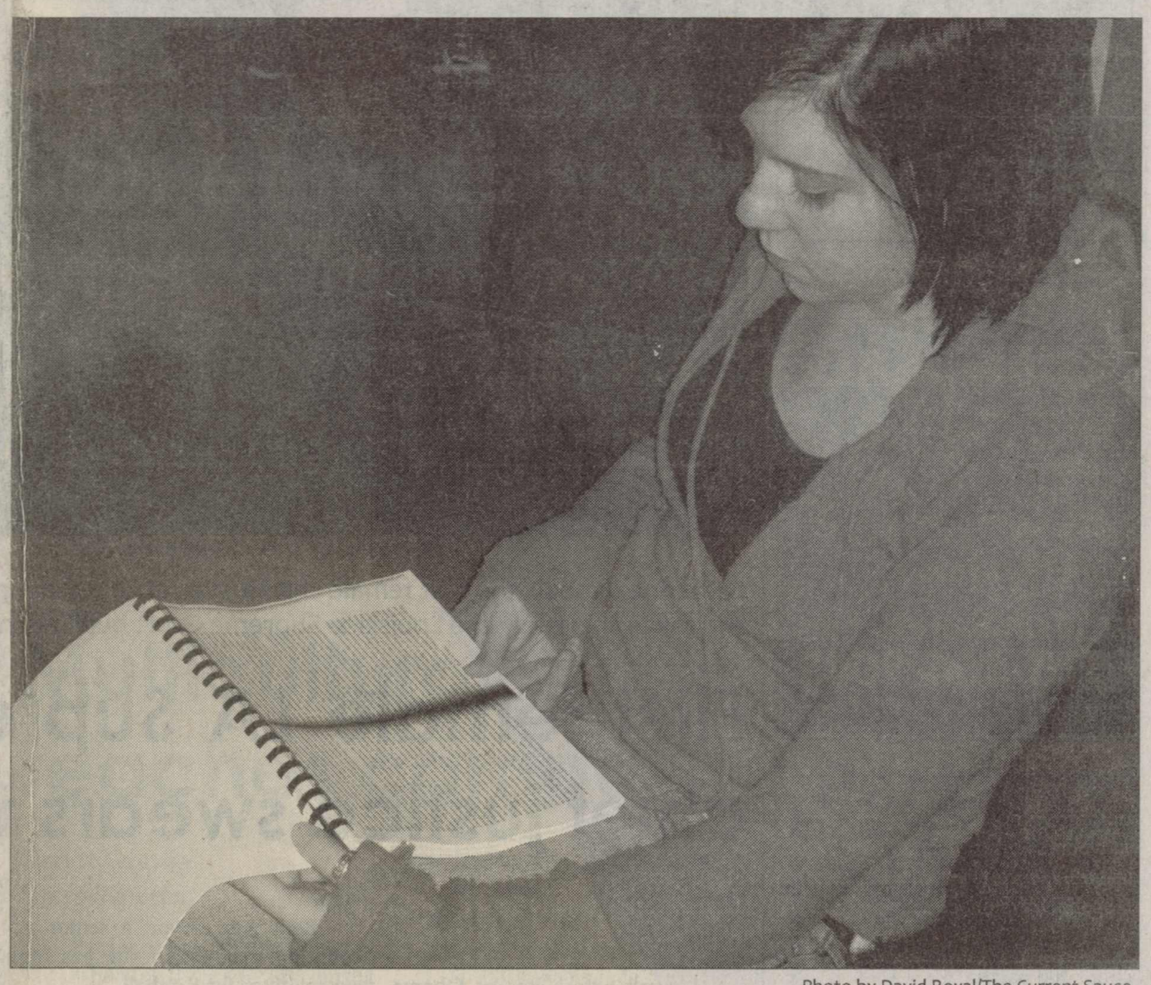


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Students like Krista Dixon (above) are making sacrifices due to the budget cut. Some professors now require that students make their own copies of their syllabi.

Although they still have some more research to complete and details to smooth over, Bourque said the SGA expects to have a piece of legislation up for vote within the next month that should potentially provide the university with additional funding through student fees.

"It's a perplexing situation, but I'm hopeful that putting an emphasis on student fees will provide a positive outcome," Bourque said.

Since the start of the semester, students have already begun experiencing the effects of the budget cuts.

Because the Organizational Relief Fund's account is frozen, both Theta Chi and Pi Kappa Phi fraternities had to pay the entire cost of their mid-year leadership conferences. ORF, which typically pays 15 percent of an organization's travel costs, will be unable to reimburse the fraternities until its account is unfrozen.

To cut down on costs, NSU officials have also cancelled or combined smaller classes, which has resulted in unexpected changes in students' schedules.

Instead of printing and handing out copies of syllabi for each student, department heads are also advising professors to instead simply post their syllabi on Blackboard – NSU's online teaching tool.

However, the professors in one Louisiana Scholars' College class, SCTT 1820: Texts & Traditions II, require each of their students to print out his or her own syllabus, said Krista Dixon, who is currently enrolled in the class.

Dixon, who is a freshman nursing student in the Scholars' College, explained that the reason her profes-

Obama inauguration entices student body

NSU students come together on campus to watch, celebrate



Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Students and faculty gaze up at the TV screens in the Friedman Student Union while watching the inauguration of President Barack Obama on Tuesday.

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief

Millions of people from all over the country - and even the world - put up with the 14 degree weather yesterday to watch Barack Obama take the oath of office as the 44th president of the United States.

The timing seemed fitting, being the day after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to swear in the country's first African American president, and it did not go unnoticed. Obama himself mentioned King in his speech and even pointed out how far things have come since the reverend's day.

"This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed – why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent Mall, and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath," Obama said toward the end of his speech yesterday.

Obama's running mate, Joe Biden, preceded the president in taking his own oath of office as vice president.

The new president wasted no time in setting a hard work ethic for his next four years.

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real," Obama said. "They are serious, and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America: They will be met."

NSU student and junior vocal performance major Garrison Moore said he was impressed with Obama's urgency to get to work so soon.

"That's the perfect attitude to have," Moore said.

The millions who made the trek to Washington, D.C., were not the only ones watching the two politicians recite their oaths yesterday. A large number of NSU students filled the second floor lobby of the Friedman Student Union to join them.

"You can see how many people actually care about what is happening," junior general studies major Chris Smith said, referring to the number of students watching the TVs in the Union.

Smith said he had forgotten that the inauguration was today until he was reminded by the social networking Web site Facebook, which joined with CNN.com Live to promote and show the event.

Ronnie Washington, vice president of NAACP at NSU, joined Smith and other NSU students in the Union Tuesday.

"It's a chance to view history with my fellow peers," Washington said about the inauguration party in the Union.

Washington was one student who wasn't going to miss seeing Obama inaugurated.

"This is such a big focal point for everyone here and our nation as well," Washington said at the inauguration party.

He also added that the event was about more than just one man.

"This inauguration means more than just a person who is entering office," Washington said. "It's about the future state of our country."

The party in the Union was not the only opportunity for NSU students to see Obama become Commander in Chief. Some teachers kept the television tuned to the inauguration, and even others cancelled class completely.

Moore got to class a little late because he had been watching the inauguration footage, but he found that the teacher had cancelled class to watch it himself.

Some have strong opinions about this change in presidency. Jay Means, associate professor of English at the Louisiana Scholars' College, is one of them.

"It's the best thing that has happened to this country in my lifetime," Means said about Obama's being elected.

Sylvia Allen, senior criminal justice and social work major, said she is looking forward to the years to come even though she represents a different party than that of the new president.

"I hope [Obama] does a good job," Allen said. "I mean, he's a democrat, and I'm definitely not a democrat."

She said she is just waiting to see how he does as president, regardless of partisanship.

Like Allen, other students are looking at Obama expectantly now that he is in office.

"I'm just ready to see what happens," Moore said. "Anything can happen at this point."

David Royal contributed reporting to this story.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
January 21, 2009

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Budget Cut cont.

sors are requiring students to print the syllabus is because the class's required reading is included – totaling about 100 pages.

Dixon and her fellow classmates went to Ink Spot, a local print shop, to have their syllabi and required reading printed and bound, which Dixon said cost each of them about $17.

Dixon said she has mixed feelings concerning having to pay such a high price for her class documents.

"I would rather have the required text in front of me instead of on a computer screen, but it doesn't seem fair that we have to pay out of our own pockets," Dixon said. "Even if it is just a syllabus that we have to pay for now, it makes me wonder how far they will go in the future."

Ultimately, however, Dixon said she believes the teachers are getting the worst end of the budget cuts.

"I think the budget cuts affect the teachers more than it does us," Dixon said. "They are under more strain to save as much money as possible, while still being expected to effectively do their job."

Webb said he believes the decisions he and his staff will make in the near future will not only be successful, but will also allow students to study and attend class without feeling the pressure of the budget cuts.

Webb added, that in his opinion, NSU officials have done an adequate job of preparing for the worst, and the university will ultimately overcome the financial situation by the end of this fiscal year.

However, NSU officials have already been told by the Board of Regents to expect even greater budget cuts for the next fiscal year.

Webb simply said it will be a dire situation that will require drastic measures.

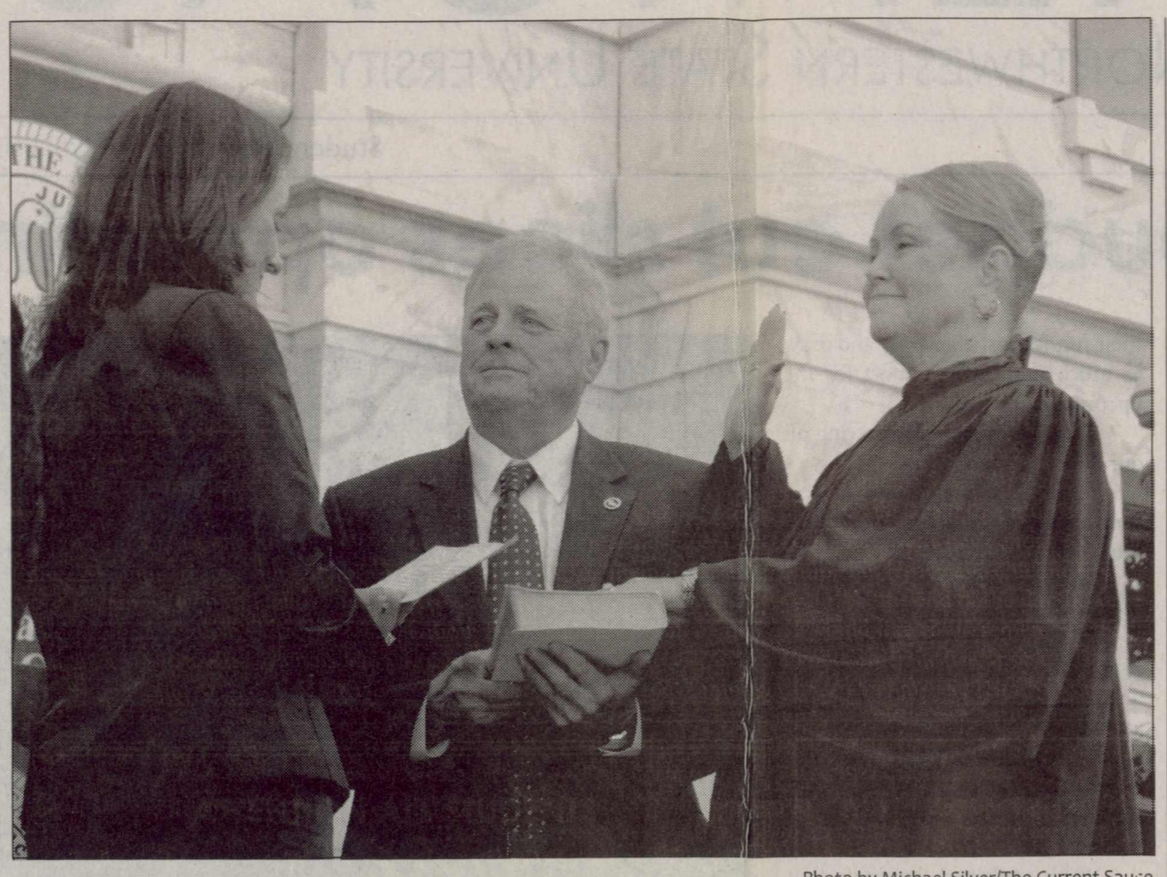


Photo by Michael Silver/The Current Sauce

Catherine Kimball, the first female chief justice in Louisiana, places her hand on the Bible and takes an oath at the Louisiana Supreme Court building in New Orleans.

First female LA Supreme Court chief justice swears to serve

David Royal
News Editor

A week before Barack Obama made history as the nation's first African American president, Catherine Kimball made history in Louisiana after she was sworn in as the state's first female Supreme Court chief justice.

Kimball, a 63-year-old Democrat from Ventress, La., was originally elected to the court in 1993. She replaced retired Chief Justice Pascal Calogero by way of seniority, according to the Associated Press (AP).

The newly appointed chief justice was sworn in Jan. 12, on the front steps of the Supreme Court building in New Orleans' French Quarter.

Speakers at Kimball's ceremony included former Gov. Kathleen Blanco, Louisiana's first female governor, according to AP.

Kimball said that she realizes much attention has been brought to her historic election and said she understands the magnitude that comes with it.

"When you are the first of anything, you must realize how important it is to those who will follow, that you do your best to pave the way for them in a positive and responsible way," Kimball said in an e-mail interview.

Beth Ann Pryor, a senior accounting major, said she has high expectations for Kimball.

"As the first woman chief justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court, I hope that she is fair and just in her decisions," Pryor said.

Kimball said she knows, in particular, women will be looking at her for guidance and as a positive example, and she said she is more than willing to be under their microscope.

"It has been very rewarding to have heard from so many women that it inspires them to pursue whatever goals they set for themselves," Kimball said.

Kimball said she hopes NSU students will be able to learn from her experiences.

She said she believes students have a "tremendous opportunity" because of their college experience, and that students should appreciate and take full advantage of their time there.

"[Students] have such a great time to formulate friendships that will last the rest of their lives, and have several years to focus their attention on what they want to do," Kimball said.

"Once they leave the campus world and enter the workplace or marry and have a family, it is much harder to change directions than it is now," Kimball continued.

To the female students at NSU, Kimball encouraged them to never give up on their dreams, regardless of what someone else thinks about it.

NSU students were pleased to hear that a female finally broke the state's gender barrier for chief justice.

Junior early childhood education major Michelle Sandifer said she thinks it's great that a woman finally holds this position, but added that it took too long for it to finally happen.

Although she said she thinks Kimball is qualified for her new job, Pryor said she knows there are people who would disagree.

Pryor said she credits people's disapproval for Kimball to a common stereotype present in the south that presents women as being inferior to men.

Kimball said that ultimately, she does not want her gender to determine her legacy as a chief justice.

"At the end of the day, however, I would like to be remembered as a 'good chief justice,' not a 'good female chief justice,'" Kimball said.

SGA Supreme Court questions legislation, sets date for hearing

David Royal
News Editor

The NSU Supreme Court plans to hold a meeting next week to vote on whether or not a piece of legislation that reduced the Student Government Association's executive scholarships by $3,000 is unconstitutional.

Bill FA08-030, which was approved by the SGA last semester, now gives the president $3,000, the vice president $2,000 and the treasurer $1,000 per semester.

Because the approved bill made a change to the scholarships given, members of the Supreme Court said the NSU constitution obligates the SGA to allow the student body an opportunity to vote on the bill.

"The students didn't get to vote on it. Period," Supreme Court Chief Justice Kyle Domangue said.

The Supreme Court, which currently consists of six justices, initially met to discuss the bill last Tuesday and after about 30 minutes of discussion, actually deemed the bill unconstitutional, but the vote was unofficial because of a technicality, Supreme Court Justice Paul Shelton said.

Shelton, who has been a justice since October 2007, said the court's vote could not stand because the party concerned – the SGA executive board – was not notified at least 48 hours in advance to defend their case.

As a result, the Supreme Court will have a public hearing Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Friedman Student Union, in which anyone can discuss whether or not the bill in question meets the constitution's standards.

SGA president Cody Bourque said he will defend the bill at next week's hearing.

"Do I feel that we were right to reduce the scholarships? Yes," Bourque said in an interview.

He said he understands that in most cases a change in scholarship would call for a student vote, but because the change brought on by Bill FA08-030 is a reduction in scholarships given to himself and his executives, a student vote is not required.

Bourque said the constitution does not clearly outline the procedures to be followed in the event that the scholarship reductions only affect members of the SGA who are aware of the changes. These changes do not directly affect individual members of the student body.

Members of the executive board will defend their positions on this subject at the hearing.

"When we wrote the legislation, we knew there would be a question about it," Bourque said.

Megan Cullen, a senator in the SGA, said she will be speaking against the bill at the hearing.

Cullen, who originally voted against the bill last semester, said the bill is unfair to future executives and will discourage others from joining the organization.

Bourque said he still believes the reduced scholarships is the best thing at this time for the SGA and student body, but added that he is "not unwavering" in his stance.

"They [Supreme Court justices] will make the right judgment," Bourque said. "If it gets overturned then I will support it."

After hearing both sides of the argument, the Supreme Court will then have a closed vote. In order for the bill to be ruled unconstitutional, the court must have a majority consensus.

Shelton said he intends to stick with his initial vote against the legitimacy of the bill, regardless of what he hears at next week's hearing.

"For me, there is nothing that will sway me," Shelton said.

Shelton explained that the constitution clearly outlines that Bill FA08-030 requires a student vote, and that is the only evidence he needs to make his decision about the issue.

Shelton added, however, that he supports the idea of the SGA's bill and wishes to see it one day approved by the student body.

If the Supreme Court does officially vote against the bill next week, nothing will change this semester, Shelton said.

Shelton explained that there will be two options if the bill is overruled.

Either the new SGA officials can try to pass the bill again with the student vote or the organization will return to the previous scholarship process that was used last semester.

Because the bill has already been passed by the SGA, the Supreme Court's ruling will not take effect until next semester.

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1/09

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
January 21, 2009

Here comes the bride

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

Several new features have been added to the fourth annual Natchitoches Bridal Extravaganza this year, including one obvious change – the appearance of the event center.

Material will hang from the ceiling of the entire exhibit hall, where the majority of the show takes place.

The Events Center purchased the ivory draping not only as a compliment for the ceiling at the show, but also to show that it is available for rental at wedding receptions.

There will also be a new mix of bridal vendors at the show.

A special demonstration at 3:30 p.m. will translate a bride's vision of her wedding gown into reality.

"From beginning to end, we will create that dress, paying careful attention to fit and detail ensuring that every aspect is intricately made for her," Post said.

Another new feature to the Extravaganza will have grooms involved in the action.

The 'Man Cave' was developed this year to attract more men to the show and is complete with leather couches, recliners, big screen televisions with surround sound and refreshments.

Post says with the addition of the 'Man Cave' he "would like for the show to truly be a couples' show."

The runway fashion show will begin at 4 p.m. on the main stage.

The show features items from the Birds Nest, Formals Etc, The Hall Tree, King of Hearts Tuxedo and April Bradley – The Dressmaker.

Following the fashion show, names will be drawn for various door prizes.

The finishing touch to any wedding day attire is the jewelry.

This year, a pearl jewelry set, including necklace, double-strand bracelet and earrings, will be given to one lucky winner.

The pearl set is valued at $1,800, compliments of KLAX ABC 31 and KP Jewelers.

Admission is $5 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

In previous years, the event has been held later in the year.

But this year, hopes of targeting newly engaged couples pushed the date up.

"We are better positioned in the year to attract more engaged brides since the majority of proposals occur around Christmas and the New Year," marketing and sales coordinator for the Events Center Chris Post said.

The show begins at 1 p.m. with registration at the main entrance.

The exhibit hall will be open with bridal exhibitors offering samples and marketing materials for their businesses.

Vendors from all aspects of wedding planning will be at the show.

Businesses from Shreveport, Alexandria, Pineville, Marksville, Many, Toledo Bend, Winnfield, Monroe and Natchitoches will be present to showcase all they have to offer to eager brides, family and friends.

Not only does the event help brides plan their special day, but it also gives area businesses a chance to showcase what they have to offer and to sell their products and services.

"This is a great opportunity for vendors to come together for the prospective bride. It could be considered a one-stop show for wedding planning," Post said. "The Bridal Extravaganza is a great opportunity for brides who are planning to get married here in Natchitoches and other cities within driving distance because our vendor mix is so spread out."



Photo illustration by Haven Barnes/The Current Sauce

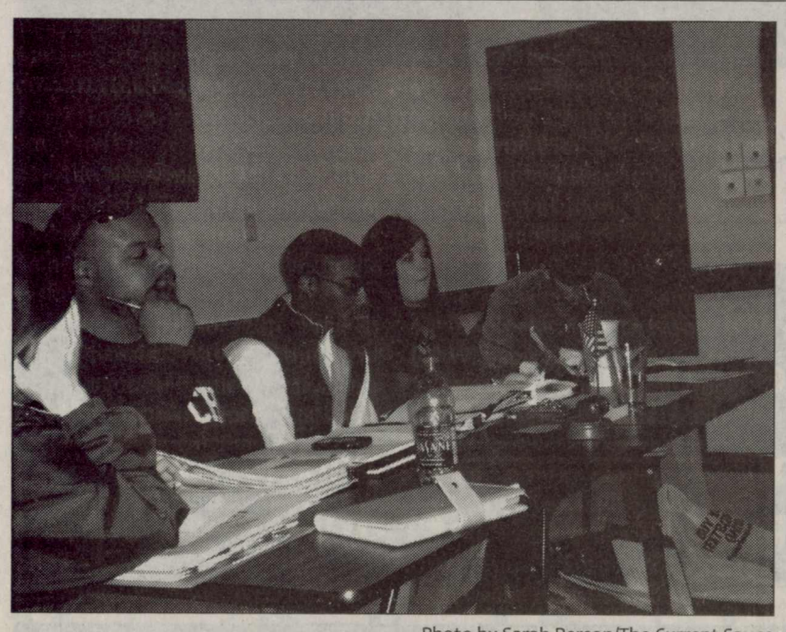


Photo by Sarah Person/The Current Sauce

SAB conducts its first meeting of the semester.

Text message system alerts students of new SAB events

Sarah Person
Sauce Reporter

Students can now send the text message "Demon" to 66937 and receive notifications about upcoming functions, including "The Price Is Right," Spring Fling Week and guest performances.

The Student Activities Board has implemented this new text message system to remind students of events during the semester.

Students who enjoy the music of "One Tree Hill" or "The Hills" will be heading to the Friedman Student Union to see performer Jonathan Clay on Monday at 7 p.m.

That's officially the first event to kick off the semester. Clay's music is featured on various reality shows, independent movies and radio shows across the country. If interested students want to check out Clay's music, they can visit his Web site, jonathanclay.com.

There are many events planned for the semester, including the 50th Anniversary of Miss Lady of the Bracelet. The pageant will take place Feb. 7 in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

The big event for March is "The Price is Right." Eddie Higginbotham, SAB secretary and treasurer, said the event has been a great success in the past.

"I'm excited for 'The Price is Right,'" he said. "We've had this event in past semesters. Since it was such a great turnout, we've made it a staple event for the coming years."

Another event, "Demon Idol," is also on the agenda for this semester at the end of March. March 30 will kick off Spring Fling Week, "I love the '90s," with a week of events.

The new text messaging system serves as a reminder in a free text message the day before the event.

Kirk Lee, Assistant Director to Student Activities, said the board is trying to keep students informed.

"We are looking at new advertising venues because our old standard ways aren't working out the way we would like them to," Lee said.

Monica Randazzo, senior journalism major and former SAB vice president, has been on SAB since fall 2005. She recently resigned her position as vice president to focus on her last semester but said she will never forget SAB and the impact it has had on her life.

"SAB has been one of my greatest experiences in college," Randazzo said. "It has prepared me for real-world experiences and how to event plan. I feel the organization gives you a whole new level of responsibility because you are given a budget and you can run with it."

Robin Williams is the new vice president, and she is eager to work with the students.

"SAB gives me the opportunity to meet new people and stretch myself in ways I wouldn't have been able to," Williams said.

SAB encourages everyone to take part in the events planned.

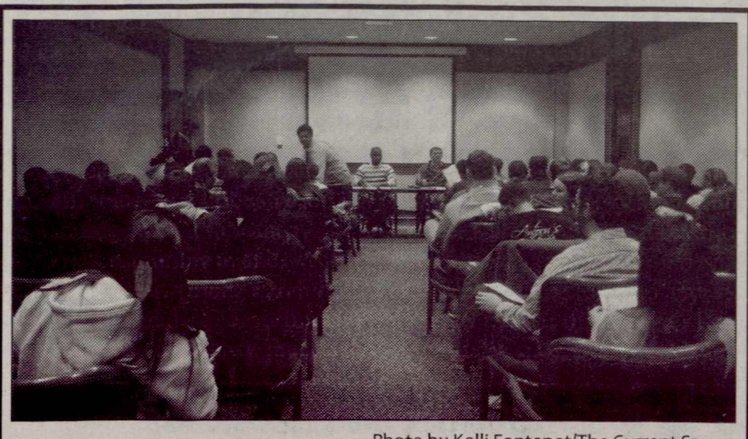


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

The Gavel Club holds its first meeting of the semester.

The deadline for the *Argus*, NSU's award-winning art and literary magazine, has been extended.

The **new deadline** *for all submissions is* **Jan. 30.**

Contact Editor Katie Magana at nsuargus@gmail.com for more information.

Multicultural music reaches campus

Taylor Graves
Sauce Reporter

The Louisiana Folklife Center at NSU is hosting three concerts during the spring semester so students can enjoy and experience the tradition of folk music.

Concerts will be held in the Friedman Student Union with free admission.

All concerts will begin at noon with each musician ending the day's events with a workshop.

"This is an opportunity for students to engage and experience culture, not just read it out of a book or see a movie," Shane Rasmussen, Director of Louisiana Folklife Center, said.

The Folklife Center, located on the second floor of Kyser Hall, provides information and literature about cultural heritage in Louisiana.

The Center also plans and sponsors the annual Folk Festival in July.

The culture was not the only factor in deciding which artists to bring to NSU. The type of music and energy of the performers were highly considered.

"I tried to choose artists that were dynamic and would have energetic performances, and their music would reflect modern music," Rasmussen said.

Cajun and western music will be played by Sarah Jayde Williams, a fourth generation fiddler, on Jan. 21.

As years progressed, she branched out with her fiddle to play Cajun and western swing music.

She has also made a career of singing in English and French.

While performing across the United States and Canada, Williams recorded her first album, "Special Edition Cajun & Texas Swing."

Artist of "Unplugged And Off The Chain," Tarumbae will perform Feb. 18.

Recording four albums and achieving a spot on the Louisiana State Roster Artist list has made Tarumbae known around the country.

While touring, he began programs to teach the youth about the dynamics and understanding of music. Zydepunks will play their unique folk, punk sound in the final concert March 18.

Beginning in New Orleans may have added to the inspiration of the Zydepunks when finding their sound.

The group uses fiddles, drums, bass and vocals in six different languages to produce Yiddish riddles, Irish ballads and Cajun punk.

The Folklife Center staff decided to bring these artists to the campus to raise multicultural awareness among students.

The Folklife Center in room 213 of Kyser Hall can provide more information about these concerts.

Frosty Factory opening delayed

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

The dormant Frosty Factory has had a tough time getting its doors open, but it will be accepting applications from potential employees today and tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in order to open in February.

Owner Dwayne Arnold and managers will be at the Natchitoches location on Highway 1 South, accepting resumes and applications for those interested in working for the drive thru liquor and frozen mixed drinks shop.

"I like to hire college students," Arnold said. "They make the best employees because they're goal-oriented and hardworking... I like being able to help put them through college."

The Frosty Factory has been "a long time coming," as Arnold said. The sign first appeared last summer outside of the former McDonalds building.

Arnold told The Current Sauce in September that the Frosty Factory would be open by November, but Arnold said the wait for the correct permits was the cause behind the delay.

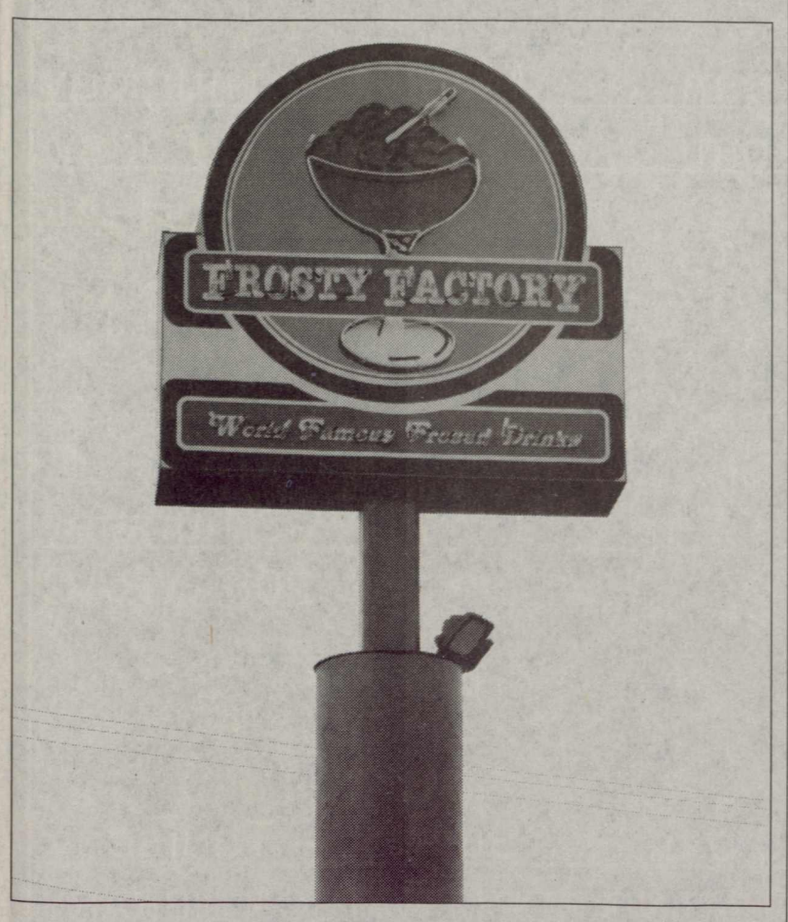


Photo by Kera Simon/The Current Sauce

The Frosty Factory, still closed to the public, should be opening some time before February.

Parkway Cinema

1011 Keyser Ave.

movie times

"Gran Torino"
Rated R
1 hr. 56 min.
6:45 p.m.
9 p.m.

"The Unborn"
Rated PG-13
1 hr. 28 min.
7:15 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

"Bride Wars"
Rated PG
1 hr. 30 min.
7:15 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

"My Bloody Valentine"
Rated R
1 hr. 41 min.
7:15 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop"
Rated PG
1 hr. 27 min.
6:45 p.m.
8:45 p.m.

"Hotel for Dogs"
Rated PG
1 hr. 40 min.
6:45 p.m.
8:45 p.m.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
January 21, 2009

Winter winds wreak havoc on students' sinuses

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

Out with the cold and in with the flu – it seems as though college students get sick and stay sick.

Upon returning from Christmas break, students' immune systems are at their weakest point.

"Upper respiratory problems are by far our biggest complaint," Lisa Thomas, a staff nurse at Health Services, said. "Students come in with sore throats, coughs, strep throat and other respiratory problems."

Thomas explained that these health problems may be caused by the constantly changing temperatures.

"[The temperature] doesn't give people's sinus track time to level out," Thomas said.

Chris Smith, a junior general studies major, agreed with Thomas that the weather is one of the leading factors in illnesses this time of year.

"One day it's hot, and the next day it's cold," Smith said. "My body can't make the quick adjustments."

The nurses of NSU Health Services treat several illnesses during the first couple weeks of the new year, ranging anywhere from the common cold to bronchitis.

Sarah Timmons, junior biology major, is one of several students who came down with bronchitis over the semester.

Although not all cases are serious, the symptoms of the illness are sure to put a damper on holiday celebrations.

"I became very hoarse, my nose was stopped up and the doctor found that my chest was very congested," Timmons said.

Students who visit Health Services with illnesses such as bronchitis are often sent to either Dr. Mary Long or Dr. Michelle Mayeaux at the Ingram Medical Clinic.

Those who suffer from less serious sicknesses are usually given over-the-counter medication.

Decongestants are often given to students who suffer from the common cold.

Timmons took antibiotics to treat her sickness, which she, too, believes was caused by the season's weather.

"Everybody gets sick when [the weather] goes from hot to cold to hot to cold," she said.

Despite these constant weather changes, some students manage to remain healthy over the break.

Rebecca Edwards, a senior English major, has yet to become ill during the holiday season.

"I hate colds, so I do what I can to avoid getting sick," Edwards said.

Edwards maintains a healthy sleeping pattern and makes sure to eat right. In addition to keeping a balanced nutrition, there are many habits students should practice in order to stay healthy.

"Wash your hands," Thomas said. "I see people go into Vic's without washing their hands and leave the bathroom without washing their hands."

Thomas said another important habit students should practice is covering their mouths when they cough.

The university also plays a role in making sure students receive information about how to stay healthy with its annual Health Fest.

Representatives from Natchitoches and its surrounding areas present students and members from the community with ideas and information about fitness and nutrition.

Health Fest will take place April 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Prather Coliseum.



Photo by Sarah Cramer/The Current Sauce

As flu season hits Natchitoches, more and more students visit the Health Services Building on Caspari Street for evaluations, referrals and medicine.

Fast Fact

As of Jan. 20, 2009, the stock market fell -332.13 points, ending at 7,949.09, according to Yahoo! Finance.

(finance.yahoo.com)

Want to get involved with The Current Sauce?

Attend our meetings every Monday 6:30 p.m. in 227 Kyser Hall



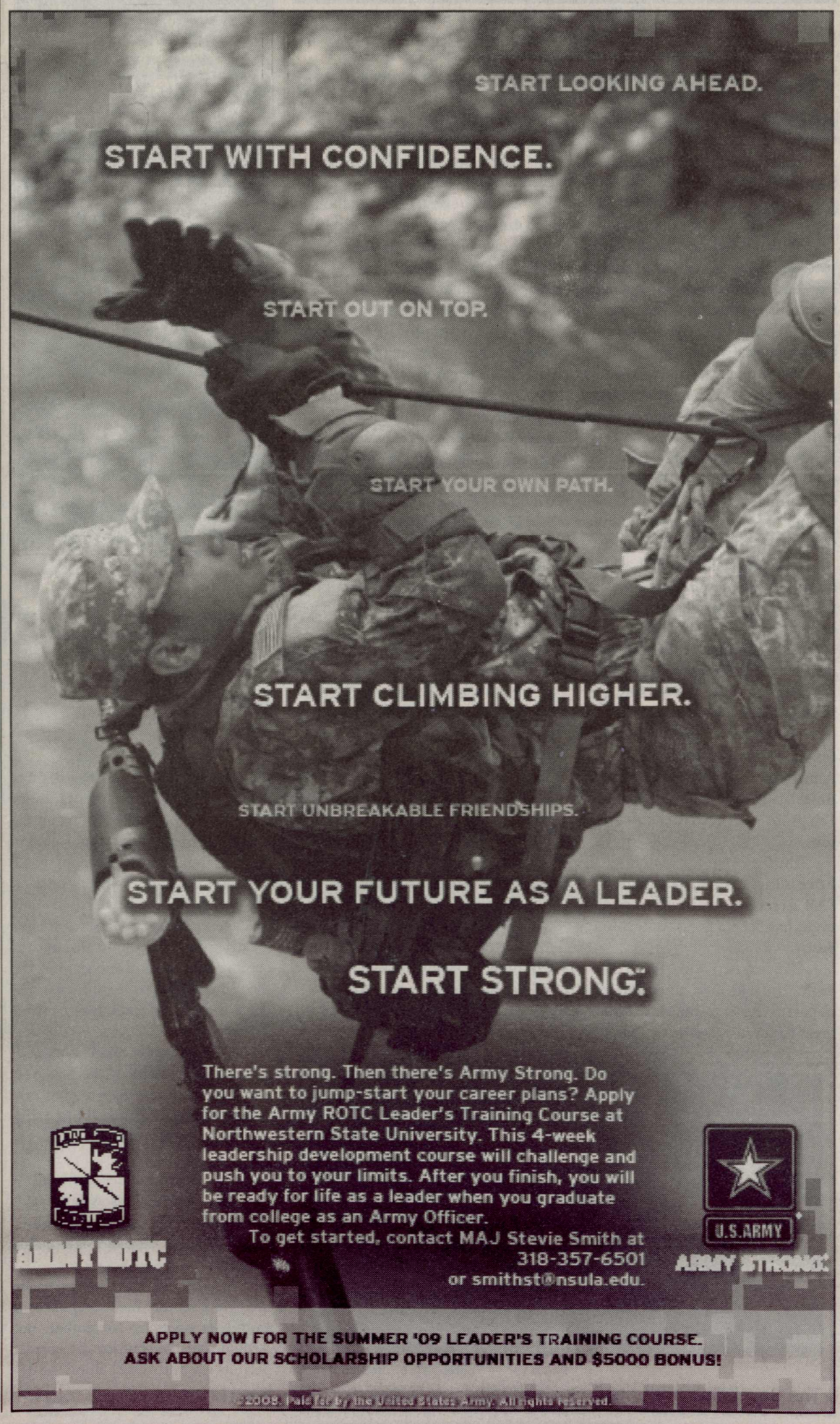
FREE TUTORING CAMPUS-WIDE

ACADEMIC CENTER

8:00 am - 8:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Friday
239 KYSER HALL

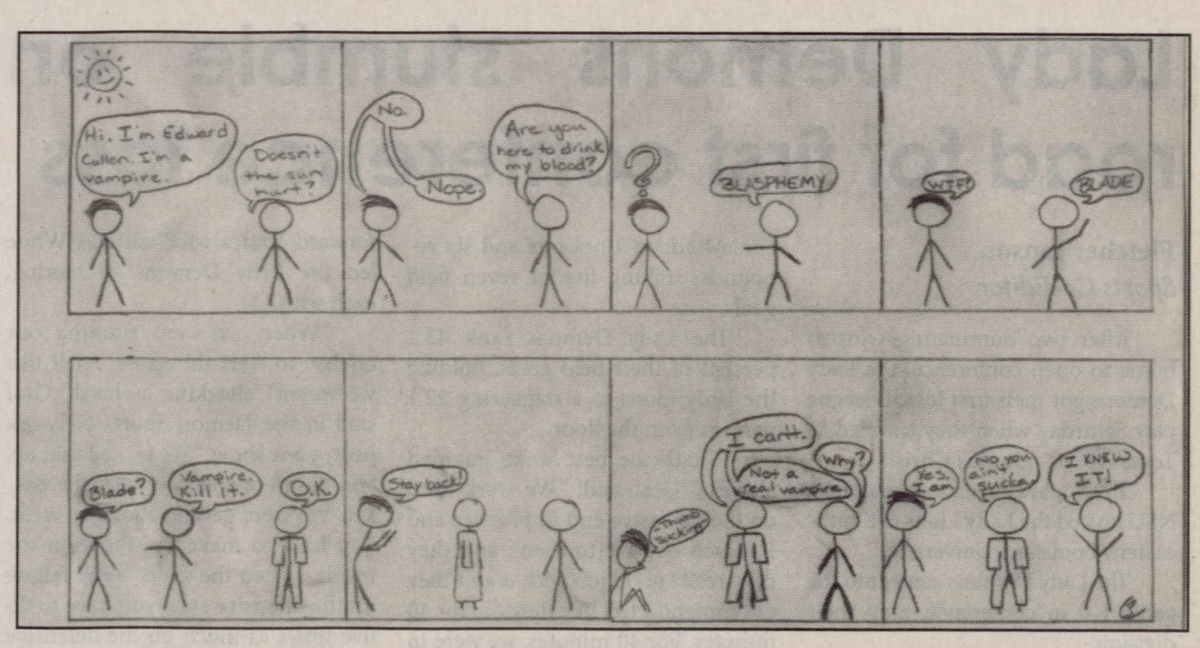
5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday
208 WRAC

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sunday – Thursday
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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu
January 21, 2009

Opinions



Half the Battle: Blood-suckers

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



"Twilight" is not about vampires.

Sure, the characters are called vampires, but they are not real vampires.

They are really an abomination unto the Lord.

Real vampires. Yeah, seems pretty oxymoronic, I know. However, I am not going to be silent about this any longer.

Vampires. The blood-sucking undead. They can't go out into the sunlight, definitely can't glow and they drink human blood. They don't go hunting, unless it's for you.

Bram Stoker wrote about real vampires: Count Dracula and his wives, the wanton female vampires who seduce Jonathan Harker, who Dracula saves at the very last second because he wants the man's legal advice – preying on the man's livelihood rather than his blood.

There were several subsequent books and stories, all following the same pattern. Then, in 1973, the vampire genre got a new face.

"Blade" is definitely pushing it, as far as traditional vampirism goes, but they do a good job of explaining how it all works out… although vampirism as a disease is a pretty big jump.

There is a difference between Marvel's Blade and Stephenie Meyer's Edward Cullen. Blade is not a lovable guy. You fall in love with Blade because if you're not with Blade, you're dead.

Cullen, meanwhile, was made to be some romantic guy who just raises the standards for the rest of us. I don't need that pressure in my life right now.

Vampires are not romantic. They seduce and steal the blood of their victims, leaving you (much like an ex-wife) hurt, weeping and, in your last moments of consciousness, a little confused. If you find that romantic, contact me privately for the number for my psychiatrist.

Stephenie Meyer is trying to ruin vampires and desensitize us to the horror that is getting your blood drained through the neck by making vampires (if you can really call them that) lovable and romantic.

The book itself is entirely unbelievable anyway, completely ignoring the whole vampire subject. What children talk like that? Honestly? What teenagers do you know of that use 20 adjectives in one sentence talking about the sky?

Don't disgrace vampires by counting Cullen and his posse among their ranks. Now, if you'll excuse me, the other editors are in the other room, and I'm thirsty.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university.

All submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone.

All submissions become property of The Current Sauce.

Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

'Dream' remembered

Tori Ladd
Life Editor



In the midst of a trying period in United States history, Martin Luther King Jr. ratified and shook the nation so that much change was forced upon and digested by the citizens, marking a new era.

He advocated hard work and nonviolence to the American people, along with his hope that all people should be treated as equals.

The Civil Rights Movement dawned with his leadership during the December 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, and it ended with his assassination in April 1968.

Somehow, if he could see what has transpired since his death, would he be pleased and his soul calmed, or would his death be in vain?

For the accomplishments and years of struggle it has taken to change, I think he would feel indifferent.

On the bright side we, as the children of our dear America, have come a long way and the lines have been erased. But occasionally we run into the less intelligent people who are stuck in the '30s, while the rest of us are continuing to move forward.

After King made it to the promised land, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill in King's honor and created a federal holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on Nov. 2, 1983, being observed on the third Monday in January.

King's words of wisdom were supposed to guide the offspring of America and yet the majority of us do not celebrate it or acknowledge it as a true holiday. We look at it as a day off from school, work and regular activities. We dismiss the meaning, strife and struggle put into making this holiday a day to reflect on all of our progress.

We quickly forget what people have done for us. This man was brought to a young death because of the visions and corrections he was bringing to the offspring of America. His family has suffered without a husband and father, his congregation without a shepherd and America without her son bringing change to her in nonviolent ways.

For all of these losses and people who mourn him, we should respect him enough to celebrate the holiday named for him, just like we do on June 10 [the day the federal government set the slaves free], July 4 and Valentine's Day.

In memory of the rise and fall of King, children of America, please show remembrance for him and for the changes and risks that he took for you and all the generations to come.

Be Frank: Don't drip dry

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



Everyone has those moments.

The project was put off until the last dog was dead. Now it is the night before and nothing seems to be working out.

But procrastination is always the best option. It clears the mind. It helps you focus. It forces you to get the job done.

All are dumb excuses that everyone has used as defenses for attending the string of parties or going to the movies or doing anything but the project at hand.

The problem with procrastination – eventually you will be the girl (or boy) caught with your pants down realizing there is no more toilet paper.

Almost every girl has experienced that moment.

You were running late for class, and you already had to pee. But it is always better to be on time for class and pee later.

By the time you have surprisingly sat through the hour-long class with your legs crossed hoping the professor dismisses early just to find out that today was the day he ran over. You sprint out of class and head for the bathroom.

Of course, there is a line.

Finally the time has come to take care of your business, and you don't take the few seconds to pick the stall that has toilet paper. And then it happens. The infamous drip dry because you waited until there were no other options.

Waiting didn't help you pee any better. All it did was add additional stress to your bladder and leave you hanging dry because there were only two inches of toilet paper left on the roll.

It is the same thing with a project. You wait to the last moment, and you aren't able to get the sources you needed or the supplies.

Instead of working on the project three months ago when it was assigned, you are stuck at 2 a.m. struggling to figure out which account to debit or how to appropriately identify the source. It is too late to ask the instructor without looking like a complete slacker, and all of your friends have already gone to bed.

The project isn't better, and you have successfully lost those few hours of sleep.

Was it worth it?

True, you might have obtained the A, but it wasn't because your mind was clearer or procrastination forced you to concentrate. It was because you are a smart person, or the instructor is just an easy grader. It means you met the base requirements and you know how to fake it.

As a result, you continue living your collegiate life in denial and fruitlessly stress yourself out each time a project is due.

Make today the day you learn from your past experiences. It is a new semester filled with new projects and exams and procrastination opportunities.

The challenge – don't take those opportunities. Find a new opportunity, and don't be the girl stuck drip-drying.

New 'Call of Duty':
Gamers becoming soldiers

Bryant Weldon
Guest Columnist



Parents have often worried about the material contained in video games.

Well, what if I were to tell you that today's games are being used as military recruiting tools?

Soon when you visit an Army recruiting center in your town, you just might be offered to play an online game instead of receiving a handful of pamphlets and some persuasive words from a recruiting officer.

A new facility called "The Army Experience" filled with video games was set up in Philadelphia, Pa., in the Army's recruiting center at the Franklin Mills Mall to replace five traditional recruiting centers.

So far, 33 individuals have joined up, along with five reservists, according to Reuters.com. You can't argue with results, especially at a time when our military troop levels are low and we're busy with so many conflicts overseas.

As a means to get individuals to enlist, especially younger men, you can't really do much better.

The problem with this idea is the glorification.

By offering a simulated combat experience, all you get are the positives – patriotism and a sense of accomplishment.

There are quite a few things missing. You can't feel the loss of your fellow soldiers. You can't experience the pain of being shot or fully comprehend that you are taking the lives of others.

As a gamer, I myself can't get enough of first-person shooters, and my favorite two games just so happen to be Call of Duty games. Both are military war games and both are filled with a not-so-subtle promotion for the United States Marines.

The fighting is about as realistic as you can get at the moment with both high definition video and sound, but what's missing is the interaction with the other three senses.

You don't feel the gunshot to your leg or the kick of the rifle. You don't smell the burning flesh and smoke after an explosion. You don't taste the metal, dirt, blood and sweat of combat.

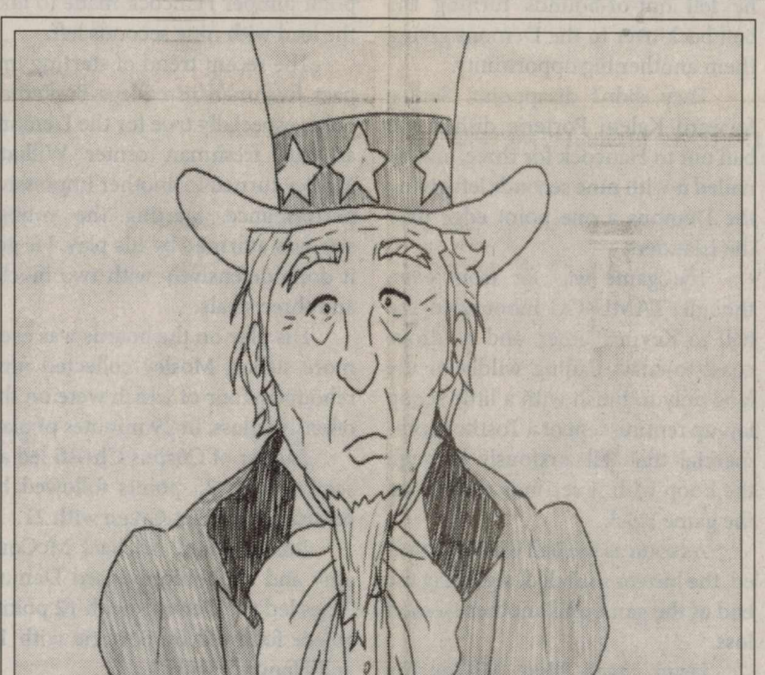
I bet that if the individuals playing these games were actually shot with rubber bullets every time they were hit in the game, they'd soon put down that controller.

A room full of games is much more of a relaxed environment compared to a traditional recruiting office full of uniformed soldiers, and that's part of its allure.

No more psychological pressure to join.

Just have some fun playing your favorite games with friends. Let the game work its seductive charm on your brain.

You'll be enlisting in no time.



Cartoon by Richelle Stephens/The Current Sauce

"I want YOUR money!"

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Andy Bullard
Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editors
January 21, 2009

BS'ing with the Bull: Really?

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor



The Arizona Cardinals are in the Super Bowl.

I'm going to repeat myself just so you know that this is not an outrageous typo. The Arizona Cardinals are in the Super Bowl.

If you have followed the NFL for any length of time you should know that Arizona Cardinals and Super Bowl do not go in the same sentence. I mean, Arizona Cardinals and winning season barely fit into the same sentence.

When the playoffs started a few weeks ago, had you told me that the Cardinals would be in the Super Bowl, not only would I have laughed at you, but also, I would have made fun and called friends and would have had a big party mocking either your stupidity or loyalty to the team.

This is a team that went 9-7 in the regular season. They won the NFC West, which is the worst division in football. They lost four of their last six games coming into the playoffs.

Also, I feel this is important - six of their nine wins came against the San Francisco 49ers, St. Louis Rams and Seattle Seahawks, who have a combined record of 13-35. So with all those precious nuggets of info, in no way, shape or form did I expect the Arizona Cardinals to be playing for the Super Bowl.

Then came playoff time, and with still no hope in my mind, they played the Atlanta Falcons. I figured if the Cardinals were to win a game in the playoffs, this would be their best chance. They played a team with a rookie quarterback, maybe, just maybe they can squeeze this one out, and they did by a final of 30-24.

That didn't shock me because I figured the 948-year-old Kurt Warner had a little magic left in his decrepit right arm. Then they had to play the second seeded Carolina Panthers in the divisional round. The final score was 33-13, just the way I had seen it in my mind before the game started.

Except for one small overlooked detail - the Cardinals won. With that win they absolutely ruined any chances I had at winning my playoff bracket. So I thought they got lucky.

No way it could happen again, right? Wrong. The Cardinals played host to the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC Conference Championship.

It was the first time the Cardinals franchise has ever been there. with the Eagles being led by head coach Andy Reid, who looks like Barf from Spaceballs, and quarterback Donovan McNabb.

There is no way the Cardinals are beating the Eagles. It just can't happen. Well, it can, and it did, 32-25. So, with my jaw still on the floor after watching the game and watching the Arizona Cardinals just march their way through playoffs, I still haven't learned my lesson.

GO STEELERS!

This is an opinion. Please refer to the policy on the Opinions page.

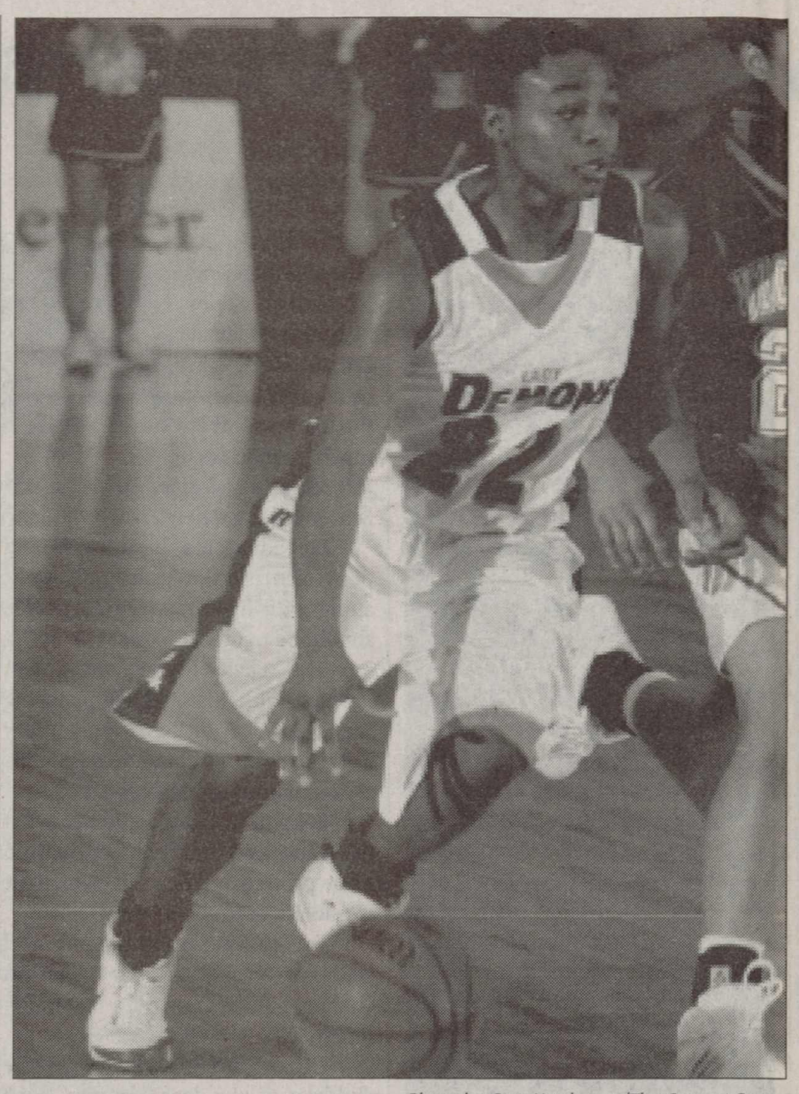


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Freshman point guard Demetria White (22) penetrates in a home victory for the Lady Demons.

Lady Demons stumble on road for first conference loss

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

After two dominating wins at home to open conference, the Lady Demons got their first loss in league play Saturday when they traveled to Texas A&M – Corpus Christi.

Three days prior to the defeat, NSU hosted the Lady Lions of Southeastern Louisiana University.

The Lady Demons came into the game 1-0 in conference, atop their division.

Nothing changed that, as the ladies in purple and white continued home domination with a 66-43 win, moving to 8-0 in Prather Coliseum this season.

"I feel like our guards pushed the ball hard in transition," head coach Jennifer Graf said. "Our post players ran the floor hard. We just did an overall good job of moving the basketball, getting down the floor quick and getting our spacing."

NSU had only two players score in double figures, with freshman point guard Demetria White leading the way with 19, also dishing out seven assists.

Freshman forward Britany Kinlaw added 10 points and six rebounds, sinking five of seven field goals.

The Lady Demons sank 43.1 percent of their field goals, holding the Lady Lions to a staggering 22.1 percent from the floor.

"That's the best we've guarded all year," Graf said. "We work hard on the defensive end in practice and I preach defense to them, and they do a really good job with it and they did tonight. I feel like they did for 40 minutes. For 40 minutes, we were in pass lanes, we were pressuring, we were boxing out and we were helping each other. It was a five-man rotation."

The Lady Demons put their conference record on the line, traveling to Corpus Christi, Texas.

NSU lost by only nine points, 61-52, but never led in the contest and never held a tie against the Lady Islanders.

The Lady Demons dropped to 10-6 overall, 2-1 in conference.

The game was an offensive struggle, as NSU sank only 27.1 percent of its field goals.

TAMU-CC wasn't much better, netting 30.2 percent. Sophomore forward Jessica McPhail and White led the Lady Demons in scoring, each with 11.

"When we were running our offense to start the game, I felt like we weren't attacking as hard," Graf said in the Demon Sports Network post-game show. "We picked that up, and we were able to attack the basket. We were getting shots we want. You have to make the shots on the inside. When the shots aren't falling on the offensive side, you have to do five times as much on the defensive side."

McPhail grabbed nine rebounds, while White struggled in the game. She committed six turnovers, having only one assist.

She also struggled from the field, connecting on only two of 13 field goals.

Even with the loss, NSU still sits at the top of the East Division of the Southland Conference with Southeastern and Stephen F. Austin University.

The Lady Demons continue conference play Saturday at Nicholls State University. Northwestern State's next home game is Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. in Prather Coliseum.

Demons continue conference struggle

Jake Cooper
Sauce Reporter

The Demons' hopes of breaking a four-game skid, which included two conference losses to Nicholls State University and Southeastern Louisiana University, were dashed Saturday afternoon when they dropped their third straight conference game in a 69-68 heart-breaker to the recently hot Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Islanders in Prather Coliseum.

After laying an egg in Hammond on Wednesday, the Demons came out with a high-volume defensive intensity they had been lacking for the past week. In the first half, the Demons forced 14 turnovers to just 10 by the Islanders and held them to only 22 points to NSU's 26.

The second half was a different story. At the 10 minute mark in the half, the Islanders and Demons reached the bonus and the double bonus seven minutes later.

Scoring was the story in the second half with both teams finding their rhythm and the charity stripe. There were six lead changes and two ties.

You could cut the tension with a butter knife all the way down to the final buzzer. With 15 seconds left in the game, the Demons trailed the Islanders 67-62, and all hope seemed to be lost until the crowd erupted following senior guard Keithan Hancock's second three of the game, cutting the lead to 2 points.

Following an NSU timeout, Corpus Christi inbounded the ball to their point guard Tim Green, and he fell out-of-bounds turning the ball back over to the Demons giving them another big opportunity.

They didn't disappoint. Senior forward Kalem Porterie dished the ball out to Hancock for three, and he nailed it with nine seconds left giving the Demons a one-point edge over the Islanders.

The game was far from over, though. TAMU-CC inbounded the ball to Kevin Palmer, and he drove coast-to-coast flailing wildly in the lane only to finish with a little scoop lay-up reminiscent of a Tostitos commercial that fell anxiously through the hoop with .1 seconds reading on the game clock.

As soon as the ball was inbounded, the buzzer sounded, signaling the end of the game and another Demon loss.

Head coach Mike McConathy started Porterie over Devin White, arguably the Demons' most explosive player, due to White's recent struggles and Porterie's spectacular play last Saturday against Nicholls. Porterie went 6-7 with 14 points in that game.

Though he played well, Porterie saw fewer shooting opportunities despite hitting on his only three shots in the contest.

He finished the game with 10 points, and he assisted the three point jumper Hancock made to take the lead with nine seconds left.

The recent trend of starting impact freshman in college basketball holds especially true for the Demons as true freshman center William Mosley turned in another impressive performance. Starting the youngster was affirmed by his play. He got it done defensively with two blocks and three steals.

His play on the boards was even more stellar; Mosley collected nine rebounds, four of which were on the offensive glass, in 29 minutes of play.

Palmer of Corpus Christi led all scorers with 25 points followed by his teammate Tim Green with 21.

Junior guard Michael McConathy and sophomore guard Damon Jones led the Demons with 12 points apiece followed by Porterie with 10 and Hancock with 9.

The Demons travel to Thibodaux to take on Nicholls this Saturday in an attempt to avenge a 9-point loss suffered in the conference opener. The loss drops the Demons to 0-3 in Southland Conference play.

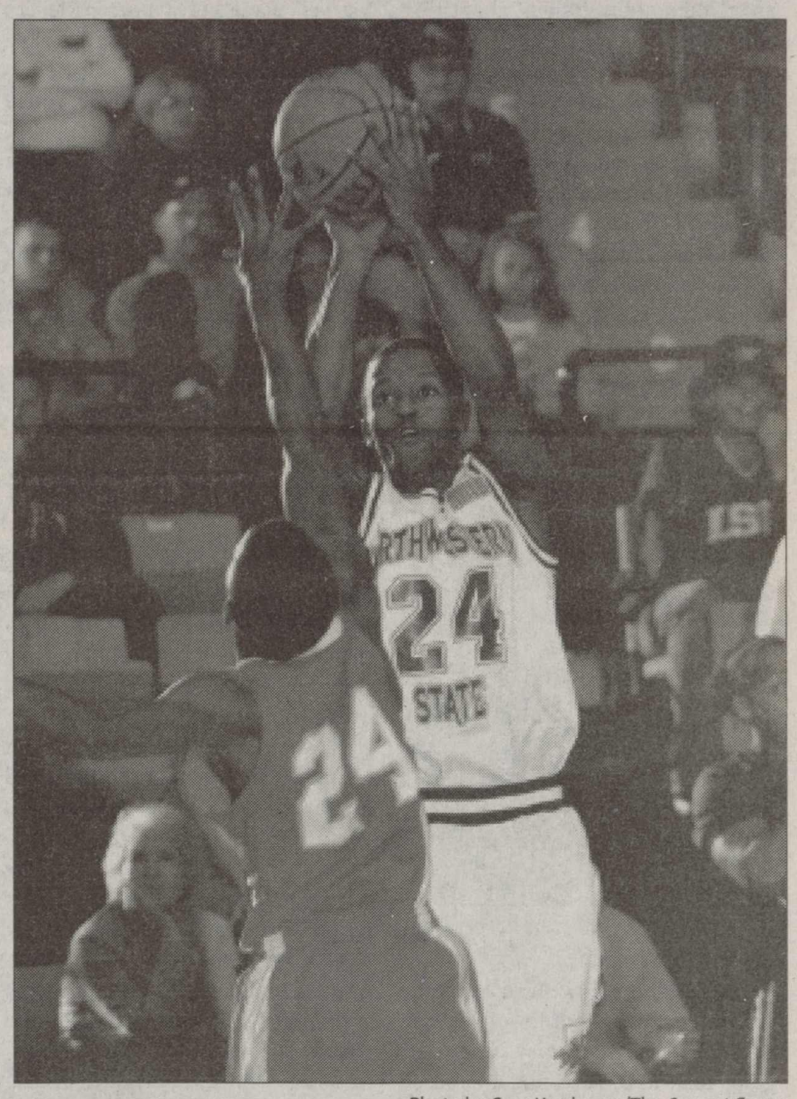


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Junior guard Damon Jones (24) takes a jumper over a defender in a loss at Prather Coliseum.

2009 Indoor collegiate track and field--Cowboy Indoor Invitational

-Daniel Yarbrough wins weight throw with a 59-8 1/4 foot throw
-Bradford Matthews wins triple jump with 46-7 1/2 foot jump
-Christopher Oyeku leads Demon sweep in long jump. Following were teammates Chris Greer and Matthews.
-Andrea Warren runs 800m in 2:24.53 to take first place.
-Warren joins Carmen Wallce, Jessica Tuck and Phyllis Iheanacho to win 4x400 relay in 3:55.79

Lady Demon softball signs two-time 5A All-State infielder Sally Blackwell from West Monroe High School along with Texas prep standout Taylor McLoughlin. New Lady Demon head coach Donald Pickett expects to add more players in spring recruiting, entering his first season with Northwestern State.

Information found on nsudemons.com.

Like father, like sons: McConathy boys continue family tradition

Spencer Pearson
Sauce Reporter

From an early age, John Michael McConathy was drawn toward basketball.

Sometimes in a more literal sense, a high school game had to be stopped when a young Mike McConathy wandered onto the court.

With a basketball coach as a father, young McConathy's exposure to the game affected him greatly.

His love of the game has guided his success in college as a player and as a head coach.

Family has played an equally, if not more, important part in his life.

As McConathy puts it, "When you're family oriented, you want to continue to be able to spend more time with family. I think family is so very important."

Although being a head coach would normally mean spending less time with family, this is not the case.

Unlike most college coaches, he has the opportunity to coach his two sons.

Growing up, Logan and Michael McConathy were exposed to basketball just like their father was.

McConathy's sons were inspired to follow the footsteps of their father.

"I think just growing up around the gym, seeing Dad's teams playing basketball puts the desire and passion in my heart to play," Michael said.

Being coached by their father, however, is not always an easy task, something both fathers and sons agree on.

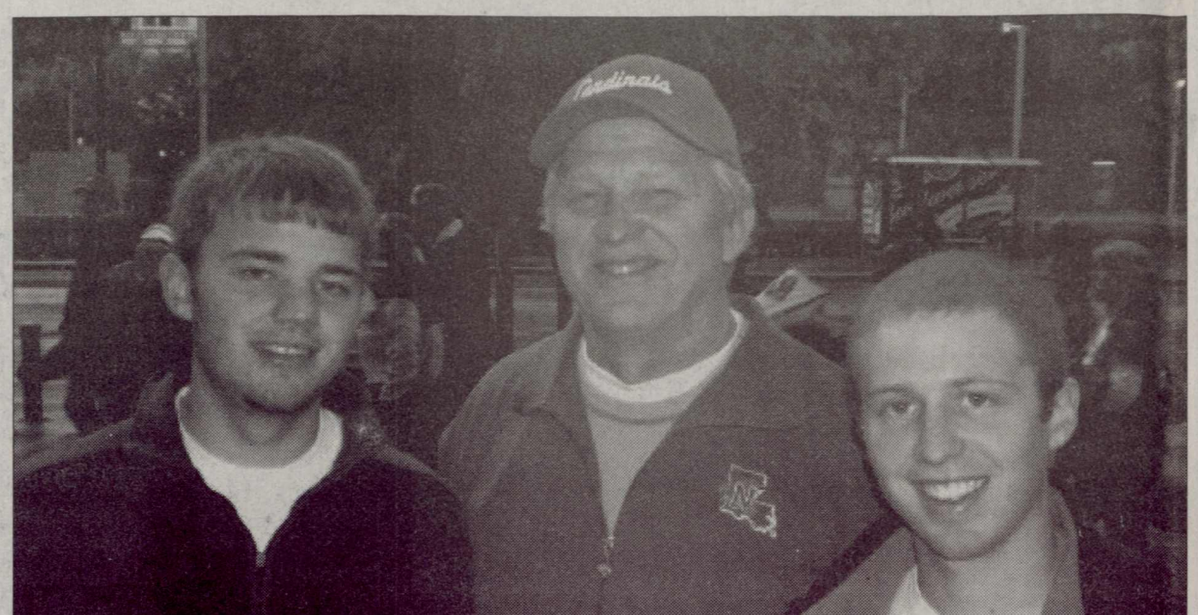
"I think the level of expectation you have for your son is greater. They are not allowed to make the same mistakes that others are allowed to make. You try to be fair, but you don't treat everybody the same," Coach McConathy said of his sons.

His sons are also aware of the potential downsides and say that it is crucial – and sometimes difficult – to be able to separate family dynamics from the court.

When they step into the gym, the sons see Mike McConathy as a coach, and they are players just like anyone else.

While they are aware of the difficulties, they said they see it as a blessing and are aware of how fortunate they are to be able to play for "Coach Dad," as they call him.

"It's a privilege. It's something that a lot of people would only dream of," Logan said. "Some people get to play for their parents when they are little and in junior high … and we get to play for our dad at one of the highest levels, so it's a great opportunity."



Courtesy Photo/The Current Sauce

Logan McConathy (left), Mike McConathy (center) and Michael McConathy (right).

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 18

This week

Dead by Morning

Three bands play concert at the Friedman Student Union.

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Truth about Gaza

Student examines Israel's strategy concerning the conflict with Gaza.

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Lady Demons

Women's basketball team is currently in first place in the SLC East.

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Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Weather

Wednesday 62°/38°

Thursday 77°/51°

Friday 72°/47°

Saturday 53°/39°

Sunday 59°/48°

Monday 75°/53°

Tuesday 66°/37°

SGA president sets precedence

Bourque presents first State of the University address

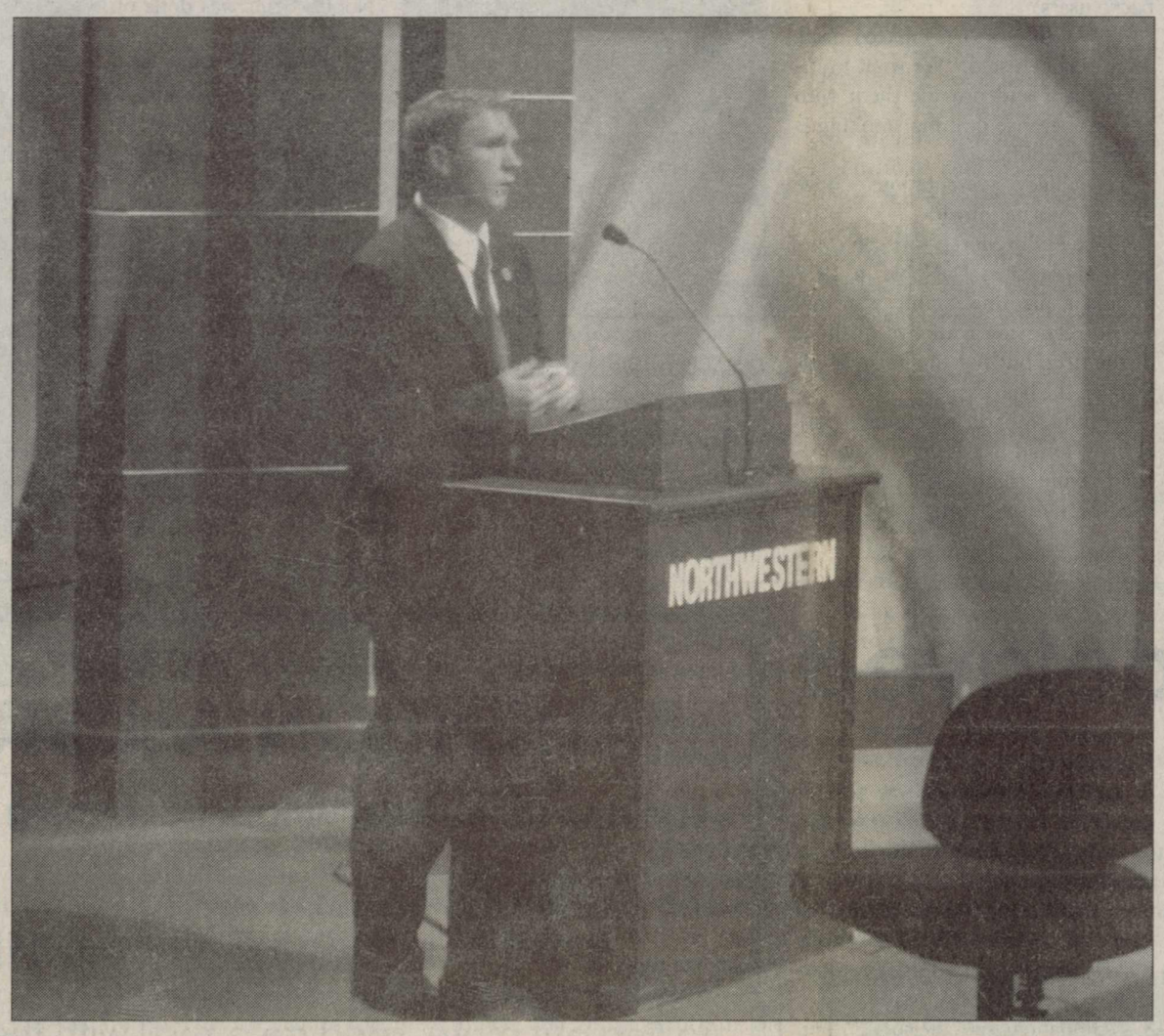


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/ The Current Sauce

SGA President Cody Bourque delivers NSU's first State of the University address at the Ora G. Williams television studio Monday night to a crowd of about 30 people.

David Royal
News Editor

Monday night marked the first time in NSU history that a student government president has made an official State of the University address to the student body and faculty.

The current SGA President Cody Bourque gave his speech in the Ora G. Williams television studio upon the SGA approving of a bill in the spring semester of 2007 that made it a requirement of the SGA president to give an annual State of the University address.

In an interview, Bourque said the purpose of the address is essentially to make students aware of what is going on around them.

"It is directly for the student body," Bourque said. "It is meant to inform them and to let them know the direction that the SGA and the rest of the university is taking."

Bourque said, however, that because he feels the SGA already does a great job of informing the students, his speech simply served as an additional opportunity for students to be informed.

"It's kind of like just putting the icing on the cake for us," Bourque said.

In his speech, which lasted roughly 20 minutes, Bourque addressed numerous issues.

Initially, he discussed the severity of the university's present situation concerning its budget cuts and the measures that are being taken to alleviate that situation.

"Our toughest times may lie ahead," Bourque said in his speech.

The university is hoping for a spike in student enrollment and is examining student fee procedures to ease the current problem, Bourque explained.

An additional $35,000 per semester could be obtained from simply reassessing fees, Bourque said.

Bourque also stated that this is not a time for NSU students to be "idle and apathetic."

As the State of the University address continued, Bourque mentioned positive programs that have been taking place this academic year and the initiatives for the future.

Bourque spoke highly of NSU's Go Green initiative, faculty exchange programs and the community service that the university has provided.

The SGA will continue looking into establishing online voting and a paperless filing system on campus in the future, Bourque said.

Additional issues that Bourque said he and the SGA plan to examine are keeping "constant communication" with on-campus housing officials, finding possible alternatives for the university's call boxes and trying to assess when the Purple Alert system will be used.

There were about 30 people in the audience during the State of the University address, and the vast majority of those people are in the SGA.

Some students were unaware that Bourque's speech was even taking place.

After learning that the State of the University address would be taking place Monday night, junior general studies major Michael Hill said he would be interested in hearing what Bourque had to say. He added, however, that because he was informed on such short notice he doubted he would actually be able to attend.

Hill said the SGA certainly should have made the students more aware of the event.

Other students, like freshman English major Contessa Wills, said that even if they had been informed about the speech, they did not think they would have attended.

"Certain parts of the speech might be interesting, but for the most part I don't think I'd want to hear it," Wills said.

In his interview, Bourque said he agreed with the students that the SGA did not put much emphasis on students attending the address.

Because Bourque's speech was filmed live and will air on the NSU 22 station, Bourque said the SGA will make an effort to inform students on when the filming will be played.

Bourque also said they will be encouraging students to view the speech later on YouTube.

Impeachment hearing set for NSU chief justice

David Royal
News Editor

The Student Government Association and NSU Supreme Court plan to hold a hearing next Monday to discuss and vote on the possible impeachment of Chief Justice Kyle Domangue.

According to the letter of formal notice of intent to impeach given to Domangue by SGA Speaker of the Senate Tim Gattie, Domangue's impeachment hearing is based on malfeasances to meet the standards outlined in the SGA constitution.

Gattie, who initiated the impeachment proceedings at the SGA's weekly meeting on Jan. 12, said in his letter that Domangue failed to attend SGA senate meetings, to attend SGA cabinet meetings and to call his court to order while serving as chief justice.

Domangue, who has been the chief justice since the fall semester, said he feels these accusations are not true or fair.

"All three allegations are false," Domangue said. "I'm following the rules."

Domangue said he admits to missing one or two cabinet meetings but said his absences are justified.

He said his position with the Supreme Court does not come with a scholarship like the SGA executive board members. Therefore, he had to miss some cabinet meetings because he had to earn money at his job.

Domangue added that after looking through the SGA constitution, he did not see where it is outlined that he even has to attend SGA senate meetings.

In reference to Domangue missing cabinet meetings due to a conflicting schedule, Gattie responded by saying that it is not a matter of why he missed the meetings, but simply that he failed to meet the requirement of attending meetings.

Gattie said if Domangue knew he would not be able to meet this requirement because of any reason, he should have not originally taken the position.

Diane Daniels, who is the academic affairs commissioner for the SGA, said she shares Gattie's opinion.

"In the constitution, there are guidelines outlined that have to be met, and if you don't do your job then you need to be called out on it," Daniels said. "I would want [Domangue] to do the same to me if I didn't do my job."

Domangue also defended himself by saying that the SGA did not make it a requirement for Domangue to call his court to order on a regular basis until late November of this academic year.

He said he made attempts before the holidays to call the Supreme Court to order but was unable to meet quorum.

Domangue added, however, that Gattie's third accusation should no longer be plausible because the Supreme Court was called to order two weeks ago to address the constitutionality of the SGA's Bill FA08-030.

Gattie responded by pointing out that Domangue did not call his court to order until after he was aware of his possible impeachment.

"I find it rather amazing that he spent the entire fall semester trying to call his court to order and finally succeeded just days after hearing of his impeachment," Gattie said.

One member of the Supreme Court, Ryan Rushing, said he puts his full support behind Domangue.

"Kyle is passionate about his job, and he has been trying to do his job," Rushing said. "If he was lackadaisical about his job then that would be one thing, but he's not."

Rushing, who has been a justice since the fall semester, vouched for Domangue by saying that Domangue made several attempts to call his court to order.

It was because of the justices' conflicting schedules and not having a fully staffed court that made it nearly impossible for Domangue to meet this requirement, Rushing said.

Domangue said he thinks each of his justices will give him just as much support at the hearing as Rushing will.

The SGA must provide a two-thirds vote in favor of the impeachment in order for Gattie to succeed in having Domangue removed from his position.

Those within the SGA who are in the same fraternity as Domangue – including SGA President Cody Bourque – have said they intend on abstaining from the vote. Gattie said he commends these members who have recognized the need to avoid the conflict of interest.

Normally the chief justice presides over all impeachment hearings, but because it is the chief justice's position that is in question, Gattie asked for a vote of censure by the senate to replace Domangue from presiding over his own hearing, which was approved.

As a result, the Supreme Court met last night and voted for Austin Jesmore to preside over next week's hearing.

Jesmore will essentially act as a judge would in a trial, Gattie explained.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/ The Current Sauce

NSU Supreme Court Chief Justice Kyle Domangue prepares for his court's upcoming hearing, which is set for next week.

During the impeachment hearing, Gattie said he will have the first opportunity to state his argument and present his evidence. Then, Domangue will have an opportunity to defend.

After the two sides present their cases, the senate will then have the chance for discussion before making a vote.

Although there was a split in the votes two weeks ago when the senate had to approve to have an impeachment hearing, Gattie said he thinks there will be more of a consensus after the facts have been stated.

"I think because a lot of people do not work closely with [Kyle], they do not fully understand why [the impeachment] was brought up," Gattie said. "After I present my argument, however, I think the senate will have a better understanding."

When asked how he might feel if he is indeed impeached, Domangue said he will probably have some hard feelings toward certain members of the SGA, but he also said he will mostly be concerned for the university.

"I'd be bitter, but who will really win and lose in this situation?" Domangue said. "The school will just lose another justice."

David Royal
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Former tobacco researcher to speak to students

Victor DeNoble sheds light on tobacco companies' schemes

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

Victor DeNoble will give a presentation entitled "What The Tobacco Companies Don't Want You To Know" on Monday.

Tara Gallien of the eLearning Advisory Council – who is also coordinator of Fresh Campus NSU – invited DeNoble to talk to students and the community about the harmful effects of tobacco and the schemes employed by the tobacco industry.

Fresh Campus is a student-led program working to equip students with the skills to implement social change emphasizing the dangers of tobacco use.

According to myfreshcampus.com, statistics show that 28.2 percent of all college students nationwide use tobacco products.

This study indicates that tobacco use increases during young adulthood.

Fresh Campus concerns itself with providing awareness of the damage tobacco use can cause, and DeNoble's mission is to expose the tactics of tobacco companies. The objective, however, isn't to shun tobacco users.

"We do not turn tobacco users away," Gallien said. "We want to inform them and provide them with options because quitting smoking is oftentimes difficult."

DeNoble's presentations have opened eyes nationwide.

The Philip Morris tobacco company approached DeNoble in 1979 to find a nicotine counterpart that would retain the addictive qualities of the drug but not the harmful effects on the heart.

Philip Morris researchers had already found a way to remove tobacco from cigarettes. Fearful that users would stop using tobacco due to the absence of nicotine, the company hired DeNoble.

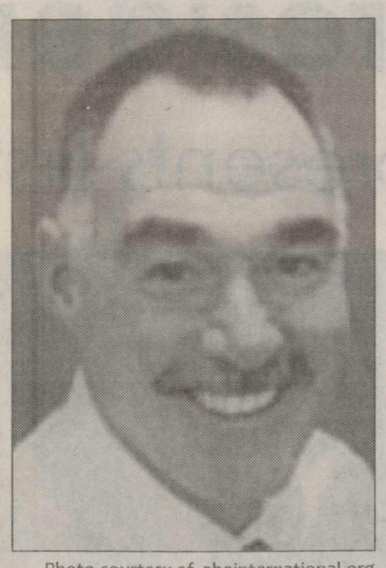


Photo courtesy of abainternational.org

Dr. Victor DeNoble's research exposes several unknown truths that tobacco companies hide from consumers.

DeNoble worked as an associate senior scientist at the company in the behavioral research department where he conducted nicotine addiction studies using lab rats. All of DeNoble's work was done on the third floor.

"The third floor was where you stepped off the elevator and all the windows were painted black," DeNoble once said to the University of Notre Dame.

"All the doors had special passes, all the rats that came in for our experiments came in at four o'clock in the morning, and not more than 50 people in the whole world – 25 people in that building – knew that [we] had a laboratory inside."

In 1981, DeNoble found a way to create the nicotine-free cigarette. However, the company axed the manufacturing of the cigarette because it would result in lack of sales of other types of cigarettes.

He and his colleague Paul Meles were fired for the sensitivity of their research and took their findings all the way to Congress where they testified against the tobacco industry.

DeNoble refused to allow being hidden by the Secret Service and the FBI to stop him from informing the people of how their lives were being manipulated for the sake of money.

He has withstood possible threats on his life and walked out on a fortune for his research all for the health and safety of the public, something he holds more dear than the almighty dollar.

DeNoble's presentation will take place in the auditorium of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

Those who attend have the chance to register to win a $100 Target gift card from Fresh Campus.

Judicial hearing delayed

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

A technicality forced SGA Chief Justice Kyle Domangue to push back the date for a hearing about the constitutionality of the controversial executive board scholarship bill.

As required by the SGA constitution, Domangue must submit a letter detailing the time, location and subject of such a hearing to everyone whose name is on the bill.

Domangue sent letters to many members of the SGA – including President Cody Bourque – but failed to send it to Dean of Students Chris Maggio.

"That's my fault, and I'll take responsibility for that," Domangue said.

Bill FA08-030 reduced the scholarships of the executive board by a substantial amount.

The president receives $3,000, the vice president $2,000 and the treasurer $1,000 per semester according to the legislation.

But some members of the SGA, including Austin Jesmore, argue that the bylaw is in violation of Article 9, Section 1, part D of the constitution, which states that a two-thirds vote is required for all bills with the exception of a vote concerning the media board and the executive board scholarship.

These two exceptions require a student body vote of approval, according to that section of the constitution.

"The constitution directly forbids that action that they took," Jesmore said.

Bourque explained that the scholarship cuts would give money back to the students and the SGA budget.

"My main reason for supporting it is that it really locks down the budget. You know exactly what you're going to be spending on scholarships," Bourque said.

In addition to debating the constitutionality of the bill, those present at the meeting briefly discussed the possibility of including a definition of the phrase "fiscal year" in the constitution to clarify exactly when the fiscal year begins and ends.

Jesmore said this clarification would protect the current executive board so that if, halfway through a semester, the senate decided to cut the board's scholarships, it would not affect those in office.

"We wanted to take this hit instead of next year's editorial board," Bourque said.

He said the debate was no longer about whether the bill was right or wrong. Now, it's up to the students of NSU to decide.

"I will totally be in support of whatever decision the student body makes," Bourque said in an interview.

Domangue said the constitution clearly states that the scholarship reduction is unacceptable without a student body vote.

He also said he understood the executive board's reasons for wanting the scholarships to change.

"That's very commendable, but at the same time, it's just the legality," Domangue said. "I'm not aiming to please the senate or the SGA, I'm aiming to please the students."

Jesmore said the SGA must amend the constitution, remove the clause, have a student body vote and pass the bill through the student senate in order to change the scholarships.

The scholarships were originally implemented to keep members of the executive board focused on their jobs in the SGA, Jesmore said.

The new hearing will take place Tuesday at 8 p.m. in room 320 of the Friedman Student Union.

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Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu

Making green the new purple

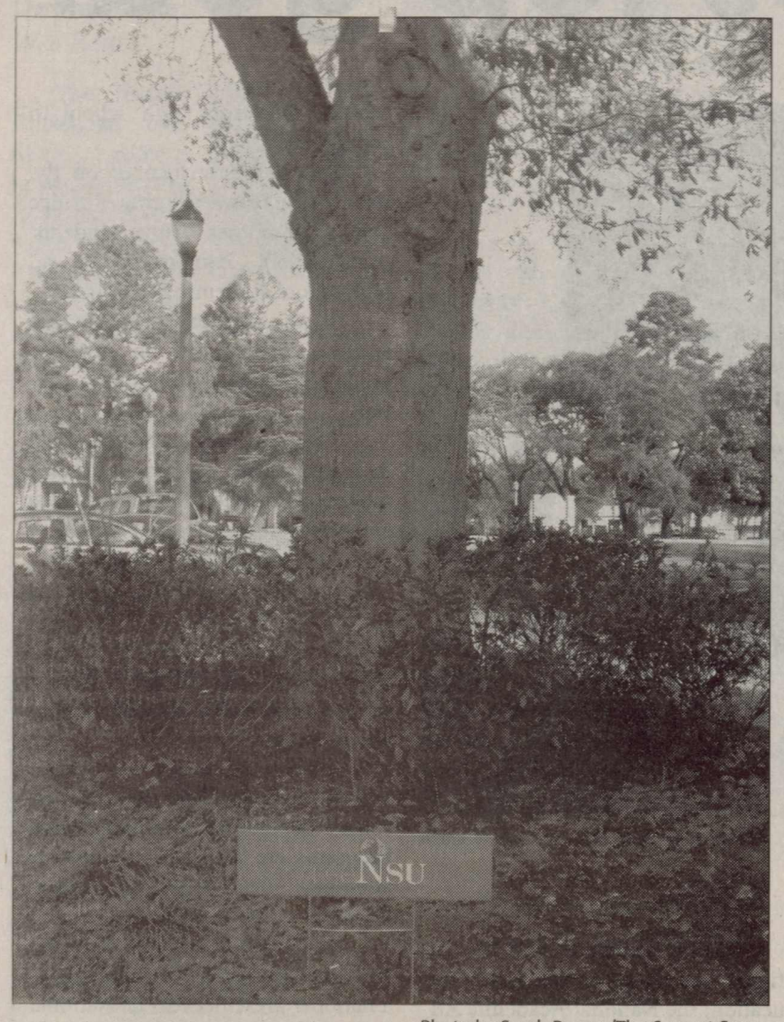


Photo by Sarah Person/The Current Sauce

NSU advertises its Go Green initiative with bright pink signs.

Sarah Person
Sauce Reporter

NSU students are "going green".

Jessica Scott, a sophomore Louisiana Scholars' College student, is doing her best to clean up the environment.

"I personally think that NSU going green is a great thing that the school is doing, with the bottle recycling in Bienvenu and everything else that we are doing to try and help our environment," Scott said. "It is hard for some people to break habits, but my roommates and I are no longer throwing away our bottles. Soon we will be taking a trip to Bienvenu to drop off the bags of bottles that we have acquired."

While agreeing that "going green" is good for the environment, Destin Cacioppo, senior business and Computer Information Systems major, thinks some companies have ulterior motives with this movement.

"I do think that going green does help our environment, but I also believe that corporations use it mainly for publicity, which to me is the wrong reason," Cacioppo said.

This slogan has been used rampantly in the last year, but some may not even be sure what it means.

Northwestern State has been a part of the change, which deals primarily with environmentally friendly concepts.

Students are doing simple things such as walking to class, washing clothes in cold water, and even taking shorter showers.

Tips on how to "go green" are all over the Internet, including sites like Go-Green.com, Ecogeek.org and Earth911.com.

University officials are seeking ways to promote this healthier lifestyle to the NSU community. Students are involved with this movement as well.

Student Government Association President Cody Bourque is aware of the students' efforts here at NSU.

"It's not a current occurrence to see students as involved with this incentive at Northwestern, and it's a true testament of the ingenuity and character of our student body," Bourque said. "There are many proposals that could be put into action, and I applaud them."

Fall 2008 brought unexpected goals for one Group Dynamics course, which focused on "going green" all semester.

The class was divided into two groups and each had different goals to accomplish.

Some of the "green" goals were to recycle paper in the computer labs, purchase gazebos and even implement butterfly gardens for campus beautification.

A few more were to host a "green" carnival for the new college freshmen and bring plants to the classroom as well.

The class also brought several other proposals to school officials' attention.

Bryan Johnson, a sophomore social work major, was in the Group Dynamics class.

"The group dynamics class was given a chance to change certain policies and find beneficial concepts to add to the campus," Johnson said. "Knowing that Dr. Webb and other staff members actually care what the students have to say makes the job easier on giving ideas."

John Foster, assistant professor in language and communication, was the instructor for the class, and said he believes in truly doing what you say.

"Going green should never just be a slogan nor should it be impractical. We need to look at the university environment and seek to make it a healthier and more cost-effective place to live. Whatever we do should also be exportable to the Natchitoches community and ultimately to the communities in which our students live after graduation," Foster said.

Research day, April 2, will have a "green" theme as well.

This focus isn't just for the classroom. The Student Activities Board and many RSOs have been part of recycling projects whereas others are eager to start.

The athletic department has tried to get something in place, but nothing definite yet has happened according to Jodi Heinicka, senior woman's administrator academic adviser.

Steven Gruesbeck, director of service learning, looks forward to more of the initiative growing in a positive direction.

"I am proud, but not at all surprised, that Northwestern has been so very enthusiastic about 'going green', Gruesbeck said.

Ways to Go Green

1. Bike or walk to class
2. Carpool
3. Take shorter showers
4. Use less electricity
5. Recycle
6. Buy organic foods

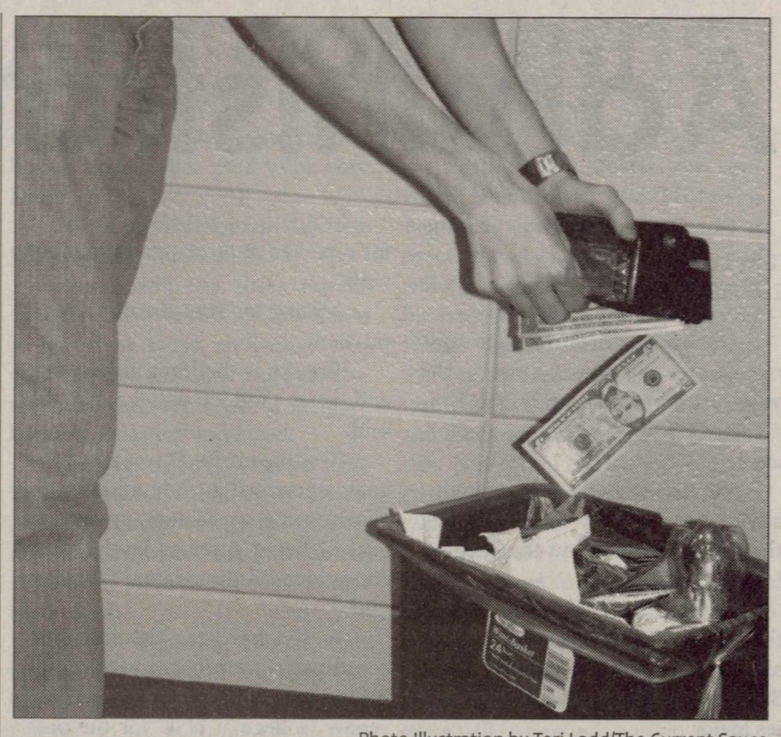


Photo Illustration by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

NSU students survive economic downturn

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

For some Northwestern State students, the recession has hit homes as well as pockets.

The family of Nykeyia Taylor, a sophomore early childhood education major, has taken on the responsibility of taking care of an extra person.

"My mama has taken in my sister's baby, and baby stuff is expensive," Taylor said. "And she's paying for my tuition."

Taylor, though, has decided that she needs to start shopping smart, so now she's visiting the dollar store more often.

"I can't buy a gallon of milk like I need to," she said. " I have two boxes of cereal and only a half gallon of milk."

Other students have reduced down to Ramen Noodles, meals in cups, unsatisfying TV dinners and cheap foods to fit their budgets – living unhealthily to maintain a nonexistent income.

Junior family and consumer sciences major Amy Fox has been walking to class more and now catches rides instead of driving her car all the time.

Gas prices are steadily getting back to how they used to be.

"I don't like how the gas prices are going back up," Fox said.

What Fox is experiencing here is nothing compared to what her family is experiencing in New York.

"Everything is too highly priced, such as gas and living [in New York]," she said. "The economy is worse."

Sophomore hospitality, management and tourism major Addie Winegeart, though, hasn't been doing anything differently since the U.S. has been in this recession. She's just hoping things get better.

"I hope the new president does a good job," Winegeart said.

As part of his platform, newly elected President Barack Obama promised to get our economy out of this crisis.

Now that he's in office, Winegart said she is praying he does what he has promised.

"I feel Obama is going to do what he said," Taylor said.

This year the Federal Budget predicts that Louisiana will spend $5 million on Operation: Iraqi Freedom, according to nationalpriorities.org.

With that money the state could pay for health care, homes with renewable electricity, public safety officers, music and art teachers, education scholarships, child health care, head start, elementary school teachers and port container inspectors – all for one year.

In the presidential campaign, Obama said that he would pull the troops out within 16 months, which would save the U.S. a lot of money.

The money would be put into good use instead for the things that citizens desperately need.

Taylor said things are getting worse, but she has hope that the new presidential administration will redeem and revive the crashing economy.

Rock concert benefits pageant's philanthropy

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Dead By Morning, a local band that includes several student members, is making its long-awaited return to Natchitoches at a Push America benefit concert in the Friedman Student Union this Friday at 7 p.m.

The band's last performance at NSU took place more than a year ago.

Bass player and senior music education major Mitch Moehring said that after touring in Louisiana and Texas, the band is excited to perform for all of their friends in Natchitoches again.

In an interview, band members described their sound as "hardcore," "metal," and "inspirational." Among the bands' favorite fellow performers are The Devil Wears Prada, A Day To Remember, Marilyn Manson and August Burns Red.

Members of Dead By Morning include vocalist Chad Bentley, an NSU alumnus, and guitarist Michael Belew, who recently earned his music education degree at NSU.

Since their last performance in Natchitoches, the band has also welcomed the talents of a few new musicians. Joe DiMarco, sophomore music education major, plays drums, while Timathy Dorman, freshman theatre major, plays keyboard and "samples" – audio clips and sound effects.

A third new member, guitarist Gideon Cord Buchanan, is notoriously absent for interviews. DiMarco and Belew insisted that he exists and will show his face at the concert on Friday, which aims to raise at least $500 for Push America.

Dead By Morning's original lyrics promote positive messages, breaking the trend of hard rock's focus on death, depression and darkness. Their songs that do delve into these subjects offer a light at the end of the tunnel – advice on how to get through tough times, Moehring said.

Dorman added that the band's lyrics provide a refreshing contrast to those of other bands in the genre that students should be able to appreciate.

"I think it's a chance for them to get to finally experience post-hardcore music that isn't just the status quo," Dorman said.

Belew said the concert will also allow students to donate to a worthy cause that emphasizes empathy, abilities, teamwork and integrity.

"I don't think there could be a better reason for the concert itself," Belew said.

Mandi Ridgdell, the reigning Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet, organized "Rock and Roll for Push America" and based the philanthropy aspect of the event on her LOB platform.

Ridgdell, who is dyslexic, said her personal understanding of people with disabilities and their need for support inspired this event.

"I wanted to do something different than just having a bake sale or selling T-shirts or something. I wanted something students could get involved in," Ridgdell said.

The concert will feature performances by 6 Miles II Point and Tyler Read, two of Ridgdell's favorite bands.

"They're all awesome," she said.

Ridgdell encourages all students to attend Friday and enjoy the music. She emphasized the benefits of contributing to an organization such as Push America and helping those with hardships.

"It makes you realize how much you do have, and it also just puts a smile on their face," Ridgdell said.

Parkway Cinema

1011 Keyser Ave.

movie times

"Gran Torino"
Rated R
1 hr. 56 min.
7:15 p.m.

"The Unborn"
Rated PG-13
1 hr. 28 min.
9:15 p.m.

"Bride Wars"
Rated PG
1 hr. 30 min.
7:15 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

"My Bloody Valentine"
Rated R
1 hr. 41 min.
7:00 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop"
Rated PG
1 hr. 27 min.
6:45 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

"Hotel for Dogs"
Rated PG
1 hr. 40 min.
7:00 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

"Underworld: Rise of the Lycans"
Rated R
6:45 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Starting Jan. 30

"Taken"
Rated PG-13
1 hr. 33 min.
6:45 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

"The Uninvited"
Rated PG-13
1 hr 27 min.
6:45 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Heritage event draws crowd

Taylor Graves
Sauce Reporter

American Indian food, jewelry and dancing brought visitors ranging from elementary students to adults to campus for the NSU Pow Wow 2009 on Saturday.

The Office of Cultural Diversity and The Native American Culture Association sponsored and advertised this event.

They advertised in newspapers and around campus, which paid off when various NSU students decided to attend the pow wow.

Some students went for the fun and enjoyment, but others went because of the heritage they share with American Indians.

"I've gone to a lot of pow wows back in my hometown," Michael Ebarb, senior business major and American Indian said. "Plus I wanted to see all the dances to get a better feel for my heritage."

The Tunica-Biloxi tribe from Marksville sold traditional American Indian food at the pow wow. Hominy and maque choux was a big hit with the attendees.

Vendors from around the state sold items such as jewelry, dream catchers, blankets and books about American Indian crafts. Among these vendors was a couple selling jewelry from their collection at the Dry Creek Trading Company.

As a retired couple, Frank and Glenda Fields said they started the company as a hobby to give them a way to travel.

They go to pow wows throughout Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Mississippi, Wisconsin, some countries overseas and even cruise ships.

This hobby began to grow, and they now own jewelry designed by 150 artists from three tribes.

The Navajo, Zuni and Hopi artists mostly use turquoise stones when creating their jewerly.

"We probably have a piece of turquoise from every mine active in the United States," Glenda Fields said.

The company is named after Dry Creek, a type of turquoise stone that can no longer be mined. The Fields said they also own the largest collection of this type in the United States.

Although this is a hobby that produces money, the Fields said that is not why they continue to do it.

"We enjoy showing this, even if we don't sell anything," Glenda Fields said.

The main event at the pow wow was the traditional American Indian dancing, beginning with court dancing that progressed into grand entry dancing, which is when all the dancers come to the stage and perform a traditional dance. Intertribal social dances followed.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
January 28, 2009

Administrator achieves top goal

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Obtaining a dream has no time or age for Terrence Vinson, the youngest administrator in the University College to obtain his doctorate.

Vinson's students appreciate his advice because they feel as though they can trust him and they believe in him.

"I think he does a good job. I feels as though he genuinely cares about the students he advises," said Sakasha Jones, a junior general studies major.

Jones, like many other students, took orientation from Vinson, who later became her adviser.

She said he provides a personal approach to advising that some other teachers don't offer.

"Students want to see people who are real, and drastic times call for drastic measures," Vinson said.

Vinson said he wants to motivate students to overcome their struggles and achieve their goals.

He added that he hopes students can learn from his sacrifices and dedication.

"I can relate to them from the perspective and problems. We can always find a solution," Vinson said.

"I've had some of the same limitations, challenges, obstacles, and with the proper guidance, I was able to overcome it all. What makes me care so much is because I saw a need for a person students could identify with."

Aiming for your dream? Not a problem.

The sky is the limit; dream big, and your product will be big, he said.

"Getting my Ph.D. was a lifetime goal, a personal goal, in addition to allowing me to achieve my career goal of being a senior level higher education administrator," Vinson said.

Vinson has been the academic coordinator, coordinator of Summer Bridge and an instructor for the University College at NSU for the past five and a half years – and now, he has joined the ranks of NSU professors who have their doctorates.

Vinson, an NSU alumnus, received both his Bachelor of Science in psychology, master's of education, and Masters 30 + in educational leadership.

Over the winter break Vinson received his doctorate of education with a concentration in developmental education and instructional systems and technology from Grambling State University.

In his spare time, Vinson said he enjoys playing sports, reading, hunting and surfing the Internet.

He said he loves helping students attain their goals, and he dislikes it when people don't have faith in their abilities.

He plans to apply his new degree exclusively to the NSU students.



Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

Terrence Vinson, Ph.D., advises a student for May graduation.

"I think overall my doctorate will assist me in the quality of instruction, and designing more effective programming for students. In addition I think I can focus more on helping students," Vinson said.

In the future Vinson hopes to assist students from all social and economic backgrounds complete career backgrounds career research and professional development seminars at NSU.

Vinson is very active in public service.

He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., his home chapter, Theta Lambda, is right here on NSU's campus.

Vinson also. is the Founder of FOUNTAIN H.O.P.E (Helping Others Prioritize Education), whilie serving as a board member for the Alliance for Community Development, Inc.

Vinson is affiliated with the National Association Development Education, the National Academic Advising Association and the Louisiana Academic Advising Association.

The research for his doctorate focused on the Summer Bridge Program here at NSU.

Summer Bridge is a program hosted by the Academic Center in the University College that was created for incoming freshmen who are transitioning from high school to college.

Vinson's study focused on the relationship between Summer Bridge and non-Summer Bridge students' participation, demographics and high school academic performance.

He also studied the effects that Summer Bridge had on students' grade point averages in his dissertation.

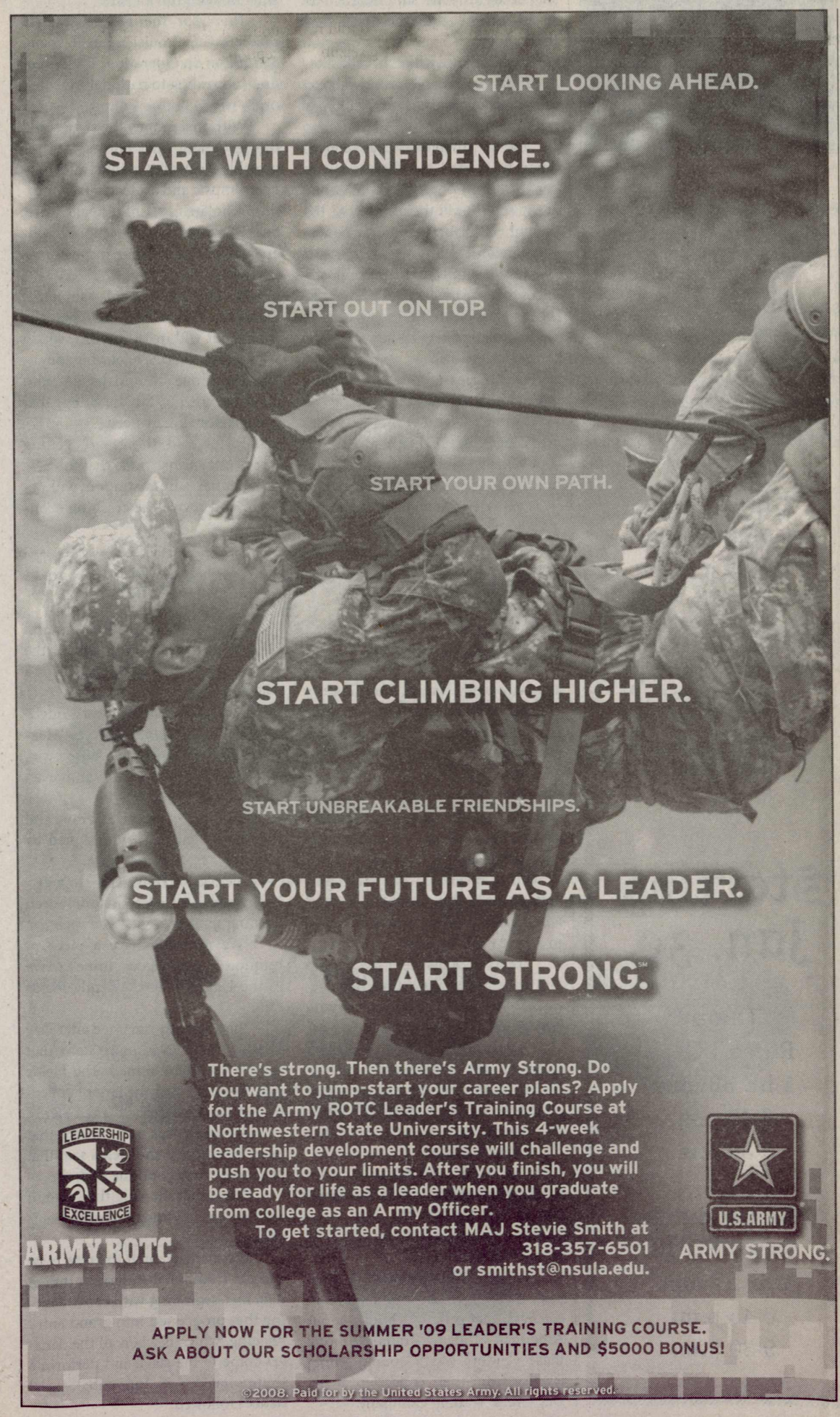
"The conclusion of my study indicated there was no significant difference between Summer Bridge and non-Summer Bridge students in terms of grade point average or retention," Vinson said.

"Thus, this conclusion supports the hypothesis that Summer Bridge participation can positively affect a student's college grade point average and retention rate."

Vinson said he feels as though this conclusion will provide facts and substantiation that Summer Bridge Programs are beneficial to students attending institutions of higher learning.

"Additionally this conclusion will allow me to continue serving as a national presenter for the National Association for Developmental Education," Vinson said.

"With the U.S. Department of Education implementing Access and Success programs and standards, I know Summer Bridge Programs throughout the nation will need experts and specialists to develop, enhance and evaluate these programs."



Program aims to nurture incoming freshmen

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

The NSU Quality Enhancement team is giving freshmen the opportunity to decide what they want to do with their futures, without constantly changing their majors.

Beginning in the fall 2009 semester, the Academic and Career Engagement Initiative will require incoming freshmen to meet with their advisers to help them find a career path that suits them.

"A lot of students come to college with an idea of what they want to do, but they haven't explored that option fully," Darlene Fox, executive director for ACE said.

The ACE initiative was created after the Southern Association of Colleges required all universities to write a Quality Enhancement Plan.

NSU found that there was a need for career support for students during the college years.

"Teachers don't always have time to sit down and advise [the students]," ACE graduate assistant, Danyelle Laurent, said. "That's what we're here for."

NSU's QEP states that all incoming freshmen will be creating career portfolios in their Orientation 1010 classes, which will include advanced career counseling sessions and assessments of students' learning styles, personality types, interests and skills, in order to help them find a suitable career.

For the first semester, however, only select colleges within the university will go through the program.

Fox explained that this is because of the recent budget cuts, and the program will hopefully be offered to more students in the future.

Matt May, senior hospitality, management and tourism major, thinks the school is taking a step in the right direction.

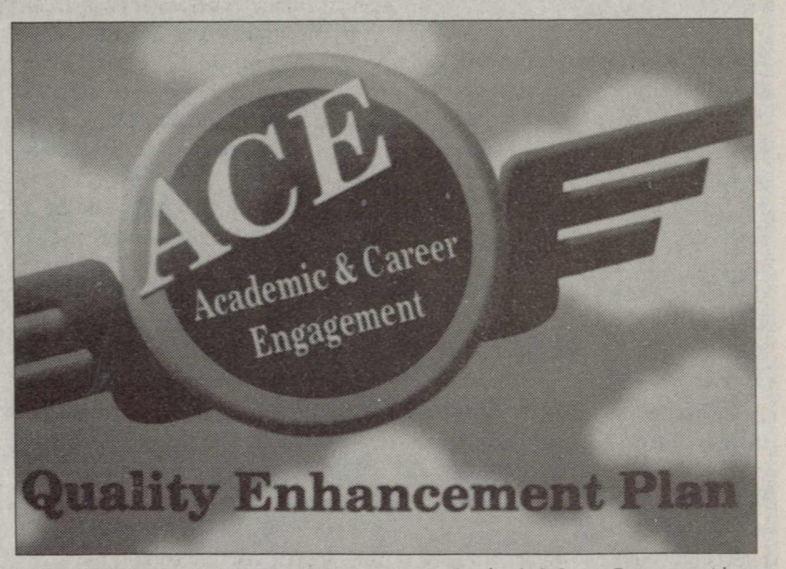
"Even though some freshmen might know what they want to do, they just don't know how to go about getting it," May said. "I think this will give them a goal to look forward to after they graduate."

In addition to helping students choose a career path, the school hopes the ACE Initiative will encourage students to do better in school, Fox said.

"If they feel satisfied with that choice and they're very excited about their major, they will want to do well and be successful in college," Fox said.

Although only a handful of freshmen will be selected to go through the program, any students are welcome to seek career guidance.

Those who are interested may visit the Center for Academic and Career Engagement in Room 305 of the Friedman Student Union from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Academic & Career Engagement logo

Fast Fact

Peanut Corp.'s internal testing found salmonella 12 times from 2007 - 2008 (msnbc.com)

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu
January 28, 2009

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict causes concerns

Devon Drake
Web Editor



The Israeli-Palestinian conflict recently heated up, leading to an Israeli campaign, Operation Cast Lead, primarily intended to stop Hamas rocket attacks against Israeli cities.

Exploring the entire conflict would require a substantial amount of research, not to mention the amount of writing space it would take.

So, with that in mind, I'm going to focus on one element of the recent events that has bothered me immensely: Israel's strategy.

I believe Israel's main focus should be returning control of Gaza to a party that will be more receptive to peace negotiations, such as the Al-Mustaqbal party.

Achieving this goal, however, depends on Israel removing Hamas' appeal to the Palestinian people, a feat that, with reactions like Operation Cast Lead, seems impossible.

Operation Cast Lead, while focused on Hamas militants, caused the death of a great deal of Palestinian civilians, with at least 280 of them being children, according to the Guardian U.K.

Moreover, the Israeli army is accused of using white phosphorus (WP) bombs in high civilian areas, including a UN school, resulting in the death of several children.

For those who don't know, white phosphorus is mainly known for the horrifying chemical burns that occur through skin contact, as well as prolonged medical complications that result from phosphorus being absorbed into the body.

For the Israelis, the civilians affected by WP weapons are an unfortunate occurrence in the middle of a battle.

For Hamas, however, the civilian deaths equate to one thing: a recruitment gold mine.

Terrorist organizations thrive on the suffering of the very people they claim to support.

I've read several stories from the Guardian that focus on the civilian victims of the Israeli attacks, most of which describe the horrifying deaths of Palestinians through the eyes of their friends and family.

Imagine for a moment you are a child, no older than 13.

You wake up one morning and walk outside with your family, heading out for a day at the market.

In an instant, your life changes.

Suddenly, you're on the ground, smoke envelops everything around you, the earth quakes, the only sounds you hear are explosions and screams.

You clamber to your feet, and, in a state of fright, scan your surroundings, hoping to find your family safe.

Instead, you find your father torn to pieces by shrapnel, your brothers and sisters shrieking in agony as white phosphorus razes their flesh and scalds their lungs, your mother buried under what used to be your home.

For some Palestinian children, this is all they know of Israel.

Hamas will use these experiences to convince young Palestinians to join their cause, enlisting a new generation of militants and perpetuating the ongoing cycle of violence between Palestine and Israel.

However, if Israel refrains from future violence and focuses on repainting Hamas' image in the eyes of the Palestinians, the recruitment abilities of Hamas will start to lose their effect.

By not attacking Hamas, they reduce the chance of harming Gazan civilians, which removes one of Hamas' main methods of recruitment in their fight against Israel.

Furthermore, if Israel can convince Palestinians that Hamas is stagnating and resisting attempts at peace, those who truly desire peace will shift their support to a party with the same ideals, eventually removing Hamas' control over the Gaza Strip.

I believe Israel needs to cease future violence against the Gaza Strip and focus on changing the Palestinians' perception of Hamas, so that a positive Palestinian political party can gain power.

Without a group in power that is willing to work for peace and to put a stop to violence, Israel will never find stability.

More Palestinians will die, more will turn to Hamas. The cycle of violence will continue.

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Half the Battle:

A game of telephone

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



Excuse me while I find a proper soapbox.

First, I want to make it clear that I do not represent the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center, known to most of you as the WRAC.

However, while I was working there last Wednesday, three people came running up to the front desk, where I was at the time, and told me someone was having a "big seizure."

I called the supervisor, who ran up to the gym to check on the guy, leaving me to follow university protocol.

The protocol, mind you, is to call University Police, who will then call for an ambulance from the city.

That's the rules.

Imagine my surprise, though, when I call the University Police not once, not twice, but three times with no answer. I gave them a minute and a half for each call, hoping someone was just getting coffee. I finally got them on a fourth call.

However, due to a lack of response, we also called 911, who answered on the first call and had a faster response time than the campus authorities.

Five minutes after we finally got in touch with them, the campus police called, angrily wondering why we called 911 and told them we couldn't get in touch with campus police when we clearly did.

And we did get in touch with them… five minutes after the first call. Why were they mad? We were doing what we thought was best for a person's life.

It's against the rules.

The rules. They are always there to protect you and others.

But what about the times when something falls through the cracks, like lines of contact with the police?

The rules don't say what to do if you can't get in touch with University Police, and the policies make no exceptions.

If they do, it doesn't matter, because they still get pissed at you. It's a lose-lose situation.

Whether people take them seriously or call them "rent-a-cops", the fact is University Police don't have an intimidating presence on campus.

A number of them are good guys, but, thanks to a few officers, the force isn't a deterrence to crime because they don't seem to take their jobs seriously.

And, yet, they get upset that we infringe upon the jurisdiction that they don't seem to care about.

Don't snap at me over the phone because I was trying to get some help for someone who was in trouble.

It's part of my job, and something that transcends any feelings of jurisdiction or policy. It's the right thing to do.

Be Frank: Even cookies kill

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



In a world filled with automatic weaponry and atomic bombs, it is difficult to feel safe.

But it is even harder when we need to worry about a delectable cookie killing us or making us sick from Salmonella poisoning.

When the weapons are in our hands, it is much easier to find safety and comfort, but not so much when they are pointed in our direction.

All around us are façades to secure some image of safety, but they are just that: an image, a façade.

Our beloved campus tries to protect us on a daily basis. They have beautiful massive gates at all but one of the entrances that lock at a specific time that appears to vary on a daily basis.

At the one un-gated entrance they have a uniformed individual deciding if and when this metal bar would lift for the incoming driver.

The purpose of this is not clear. It is to be assumed that the bar keeps out bad individuals trying to get on campus, and our uniformed officers receive the honor of deciding who is bad and who isn't.

The determining factors are still up for debate as to what defines someone at first glance as a bad individual, but be assured that once that is discovered, light on the subject will be shed.

Students with IDs or parking tags shouldn't fear because that simple sticker grants you permission to pass the bar.

Friends of students who claim to be seeing a student shouldn't worry about being able to get on campus. Sometimes the officers ask your name and your purpose, but more often than not, they just lift the bar.

So it is asked, whom or what are we protecting ourselves from?

A few years ago, Virginia Tech witnessed a horrible massacre. A man felt it appropriate to bring a gun on campus and use it. The result: 32 individuals died, and more were wounded.

Fear conquered college campuses, and faculty members struggled to provide a sense of safety.

Some schools implemented emergency alert systems, others held safety meetings. Some even provided comfort by locking a gate.

NSU is not a safe place because a gate closed. Students do not always do good things.

If people wanted to do harm at NSU, they could get on campus. They could park at the library and walk. If they didn't want to park on campus, they could use any of the sidewalk entrances and waltz in.

Or they could take the risk of driving past our uniformed officers, facing the metal pole and watching it rise as they are welcomed on campus.

Last week, for the first time all semester, the Columns, a gated community, locked its gates. Residents were provided with a code that hasn't changed in at least two years and of which most non-residents are aware.

That gate has not made the apartments any safer. The policemen who drive through the complex don't provide an added security. It is, yet again, a façade.

Safety is not in the hands of an institution, but in the individual. It would be wonderful if we could trust an institution to keep us safe, but that's not realistic.

That doesn't mean students should exercise their right to bear arms on campus, because all that results in is more gunfire and more deaths.

Students should be aware of their surroundings and of whom they can contact for support.

In a world where a cookie can kill you, there is no way you could place your entire sense of safety in a higher institution. In today's world, the only one who can keep you safe is you.

Abomination of Obamania:

First family celebrity status a bit much

Richelle Stephens
Staff Columnist



Every now and then a natural phenomenon occurs: I can't find anything worth watching on television.

Then, and only then, will I resort to watching what are called "entertainment news shows."

You know the type to which I refer: shows like "Extra," "Entertainment Tonight" and "Access Hollywood."

They are traditionally sandwiched between the 6 o'clock news and mediocre syndicated game shows and are notoriously sensational.

But now said shows have gone too far, for they are diluting the sanctity of the Obama presidency by attaching material value to it and deviating from the social awakening that resulted from it.

Before you consider the above charges to be a bit harsh, consider the following: the top three "tags" on the "Entertainment Tonight" Web site are of Barack and Michelle Obama and last Tuesday's inauguration.

Click on any of them and you'll discover stories such as celebrity reaction to the inauguration and Obama's "do-over" of the oath with a "celebs" tag also attached to that particular story.

Also found on the "Entertainment Tonight" site are stories on the new reality show for Michelle's hairstylist and how both her and "Jackie O." are "First Ladies of Fashion!"

I need to stop right there, for I'm perturbed indeed.

The Obamas, whom I hold in high regard, are given the same materialistic treatment on this Web site that novelty rehab-bound child star wash-ups receive on the same Web site.

Michelle has become the Jackie Kennedy of our generation (which actually isn't that bad), but her style is dissected at greater detail than that of her husband's political decisions.

Indeed, Obama's ascension to the highest position of power in the land is socially significant, but it seems as though all the wrong people are "cashing in" on the fact.

By including inauguration coverage and what Michelle wore during the inaugural ball, outlets such as "Entertainment Tonight" hope for higher ratings and, in turn, more advertising dollars.

Is this the kind of message that we should be sending abroad when the world market is staring into the gaping maw of disaster and jobs are disappearing faster than small businesses?

I should hope to believe that Americans are better than to lionize politicians (and in this case, their wives) and disregard their potentially life-altering agendas.

But then again, we'll idolize anyone these days.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Conservative questions focus

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



Congratulations, Mr. President. On Jan. 20, 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States of America.

As a hardcore conservative, this was a bittersweet day for me. It was a hard thing to watch a man who I feel is not right take the oath to become the leader of my country.

Then again, most of you know what side I am on. There is much excitement in electing a new president.

The whole process of it has always been something that amazes me. It is a beautiful sight to see millions of people lined up to see a man take the oath to become our leader.

That being said, this inauguration was completely different than the ones before. The focus of the day seemed more about it being "historic" than anything else. The president himself referred to the day being "historic" more than once. When Rick Warren said the prayer, he talked about the fact that Martin Luther King Jr. was "shouting in heaven."

I just do not see why it has to be all about that. Yes, it is an amazing thing that we elected a black man as president. Doing so is something some of our parents and grandparents would have never imagined happening because of how things used to be.

But I do not think that should have been the main focus. What about who he is as a person? Besides being black, what kind of man is he? Besides speaking well, what is really behind what he is saying?

An inauguration of a president should be a celebration of the changing of power from one man to another. I watched every minute of Barack Obama's speech and can honestly say I do not remember anything that made me say, "I wish I had voted for him."

Obama is now entering his second week as our president, and I am hoping he will not come through with what he promised to everyone, because his promises are exactly what will bring America down.

The speech by the new president should include the realistic goals of his next four years. Instead, this day had a completely different meaning and focus. President Obama seems very convinced that our country is in turmoil, so instead of drawing attention to himself, I wish he would show more of a love and deep concern for our country.

Lady Demons cruise in SLC play, sole possession of first in East

Jake Cooper
Sauce Reporter

After suffering their first conference loss last weekend to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the Lady Demons traveled to winless Nicholls State University for their second match-up in two weeks.

In an attempt to avoid any surprises from the league's cellar team, the Lady Demons rolled to a 81-68 Southland Conference road win.

The Lady Demons control the Southland's Eastern Division by a half game over Stephen F. Austin University with a 3-1 conference mark and 11-6 overall, and the Lady Colonels dropped to 0-16 overall and 0-5 in the conference.

NSU, despite fielding the youngest roster in the NCAA's Division 1, had great production from their two fledgling guards.

Sophomore guard Brooke Shepherd contributed with 17 points and freshman guard Demetria White added 14 along with 4 assists to lead the Lady Demons.

NSU also had three other players in double figures: Renotta Edwards 11, Britany Kinlaw 11, Sherrion Thomas 10. Tiffanie Jones led the Lady Colonels with 20 points followed by 10 from Danielle Douglas and Portia Washington.

In the first half, both teams had trouble handling the ball. The Lady Demons turned it over 12 times to Nicholls' 17.

NSU's poor shooting performance from last week ended at NSU's opening possession when they took the first lead of the game on a Brooke Shepherd three-pointer only 40 seconds in.

Despite their improved efforts, the Lady Demons were outshot and outrebounded by the Lady Colonels but somehow clung to a 47-41 advantage at the half.

At the start of the second half, the Lady Demons continued to be plagued by turnovers, and they allowed the Lady Colonels to creep within 4 points.

Feeling the heat, NSU put the pedal to the metal and went on a 10-0 run to stretch the lead to 14.

They never looked back. The Lady Colonels never got closer than six, and with two minutes left in the game the lead was pushed back out to 17.

NSU forced 30 turnovers during the game, and they outscored Nicholls 31-16 in points off turnovers.

Regardless of the score, Nicholls did outplay NSU in one very important category: rebounding.

The Lady Colonels hit the glass hard, collecting 45 rebounds to NSU's 37.

The Lady Demons' frontcourt was outrebounded by a smaller, more active team with not a single win to their credit.

On the other hand, NSU's stifling defense held the Lady Colonels to 27 second-half points on 31 percent shooting.

The Lady Demons are set to take action Wednesday at 7 p.m. against an old conference rival and perennial power in Stephen F. Austin. The Lady Demons boast the best record in the east.

With a win this week, NSU will have a big leg up on the competition vying for the Eastern Division Championship and the coveted first round home game in the Southland Conference tournament.

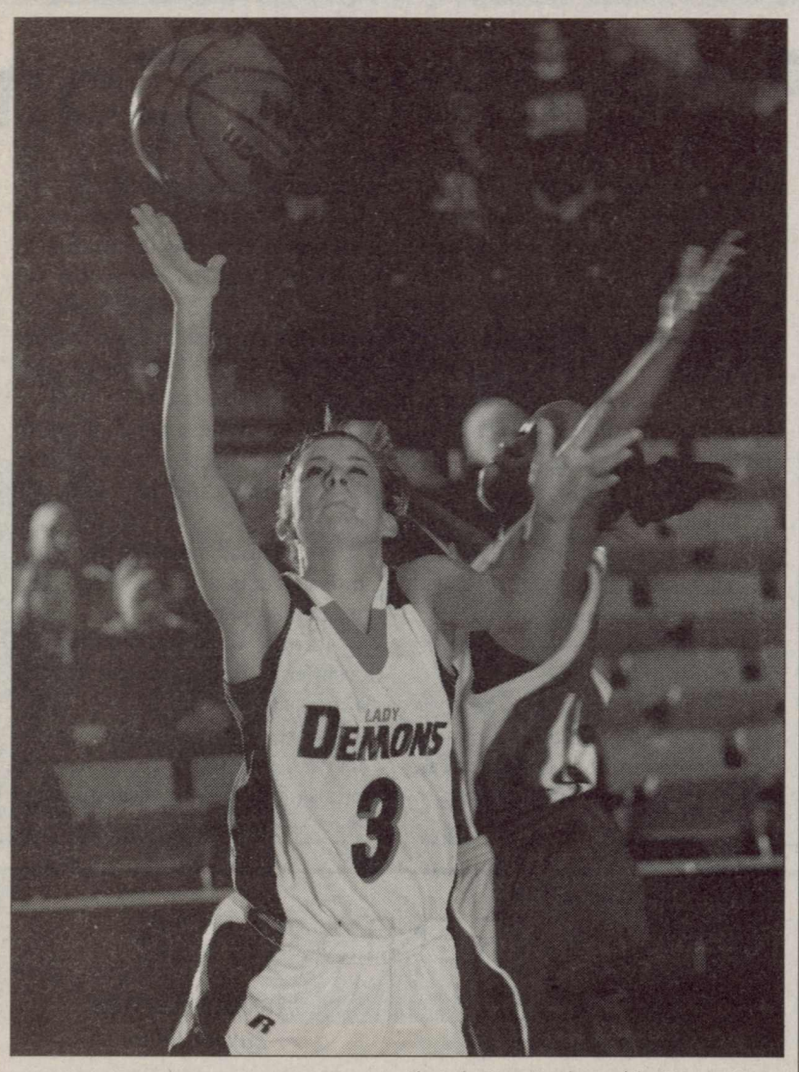


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Sophomore guard Brooke Shepherd (3) drives past a defender as the Lady Demons continue conference success.

Demon hoop squad suffers 4th straight conference loss, 7th overall



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Sophomore guard Damon Jones (24) penetrates into the lane, scoring two of his 13.

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU Demon basketball team is on a slippery slope losing its first four Southland Conference games and its last seven overall, the latest of which was an 85-69 drumming by the Nicholls State Colonels.

The free throw shooting was an Achilles' heel for the Demons. They shot only 50 percent from the free-throw line (18-36), while the Colonels shot 85 percent from the charity stripe, going 34-40.

"They shot 85 percent from the free-throw line, while we barely shot 50," head coach Mike McConathy said.

"They beat us by 16 with 15 of those points coming from the free-throw line. With numbers like that it puts a lot of pressure on our offense. If someone gives you free shots at points, you need to capitalize on them."

The Demons had the lead early in the second half at 44-41, but streaks was the name of the game for the Colonels, who went on a 12-2 streak to bring the score to 53-46 with 12 minutes left in the game.

The Demons were able to close the gap to 53-52 with 11:10 left on the clock, but the Colonels were able to hold the Demons scoreless for the next four and a half minutes as they scored 11 unanswered points.

"We just went cold," freshman forward William Mosley said. "We just couldn't seem to make the ball go in the basket. A relatively simple task, since we are playing basketball."

The few bright spots for the Demons were senior forward Kalem Porterie who scored a career-best 16 points, while also pulling down eight rebounds.

Porterie shot 70 percent for the game going 7-10 from the floor.

Junior guard Michael McConathy and senior guard Damon Jones also scored in double digits with 10 and 13 respectively.

"Unfortunately, the only thing we did well other than playing hard for 40 minutes was struggle from the free-throw line," McConathy said.

This loss drops the Demons to 8-11 overall and 0-4 in conference play.

With a quarter of the conference game out of the way, the Demons are going to have to find a way to put an end to this seven-game losing streak.

This current streak the Demons are on matches the longest streak in coach McConathy's 10 seasons here at NSU.

The last time the Demons were on this long of a skid was in the 2002-2003 season.

Ironically enough, this team and that team have something in common – they are both extremely young.

The Demons return to action tonight as they travel to Nacogdoches, Texas, to take on the Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks.

The Lumberjacks come into the game atop the Eastern Division of the Southland Conference at 4-1, 12-5 overall, while the Demons sit alone at the bottom.

They will return home Saturday to take on the Central Arkansas Bears. Game time is set for 2 p.m.

The Current Sauce editors predict Super Bowl outcomes

Leigh Guidry, Chief



Cardinals-27
Steelers-24

Jarrett Reeves, Adviser



Steelers-52
Cardinals-25

Tori Ladd, Life



Cardinals-27
Steelers-21

Andy Bullard, Sports



Steelers-24
Cardinals-14

Haven Barnes, Layout



Steelers-24
Cardinals-17

Kelli Fontenot, Associate



Steelers-36
Cardinals-30

David Royal, News



Steelers-17
Cardinals-14

Joe Cunningham, Opinions



Steelers-38
Cardinals-27

Fletcher Jonson, Sports



Steelers-23
Cardinals-17

Devon Drake, Web



Cardinals-35
Steelers-21

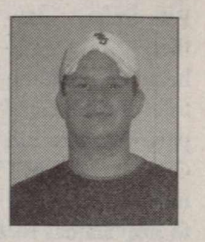
Upcoming Demon athletic events

Jan. 28	WBB vs. Stephen F. Austin	7 p.m.	Feb. 4	WBB vs. McNeese St.	7 p.m.
Jan. 28	MBB @ Stephen F. Austin	7 p.m.	Feb 4	MBB @ McNeese St.	7 p.m.
Jan. 30-31	Track @ Houston Invitationa	All Day	Feb. 6-7	SB @ S. Alabama Tourney	4 p.m.
Jan. 31	MBB vs. Central Arkansas	2 p.m.	Feb. 7	MBB vs. Texas-Arlington	2 p.m.
Jan. 31	WBB @ Central Arkansas	4 p.m	Feb. 7	WBB @ Texas-Arlington	4 p.m.

--All basketball games are Southland Conference

Fourth and Fletch: For love of the game or money?

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor



My friends and I often have conversations about things we could change in sports if we had the opportunity.

There are things that come to mind, such as: abolishing the Bowl Championship Series, more commonly known as the BCS, and developing a playoff system; changing the overtime rules for the National Football League; and the way teams are seeded in the NFL playoffs.

There are portions of each of these that I would like to change, but these are not even close to the top of my list. The one thing that has always bothered me is the salary these athletes "earn."

I put that word in quotations because they have not really earned these millions. Why do they deserve mass amounts of dough?

The New York Yankees spent nearly half of a billion dollars on three players during the offseason. Three? Seriously? Most of us won't see that much money in a lifetime, which is a crying shame. The salary cap for an NFL team was approximately $116 million in 2008, according to ESPN.com.

Players who have been around for 10 or more years are guaranteed more than $800,000 annually.

This is just an unbelievable number. I know they entertain and give us something to do on Sundays, but we have to remember – it's still only a game.

Shouldn't the people who influence and affect our lives be the ones who deserve the cash? The ones I am talking about are teachers, doctors, nurses, firefighters, policemen and the other great ones who actually have an effect on our daily lives.

I must admit that I am biased because my mother is a teacher and administrator at the high school from which I graduated. My mother was nominated for the MPSA (Mississippi Private School Association) Teacher of the Year award.

She completed all of the necessary requirements for the competition and was later rewarded the great honor. How is it fair for someone to be the greatest teacher in her association and be paid less than $45,000 a year?

If someone in the NFL, NBA, NHL or MLB was selected as a league M.V.P., they would expect a raise.

People extol these athletes and lift them up on pedestals because they hit 60 home runs in a year. That is impressive, but it's not important.

Do these athletes play because they love the game or because they know they can make millions?

I know that many educators, who are completely capable of doing other things, take salary cuts because they love teaching. We forget the important aspects of life and take them for granted.

Don't the teachers who educate, the doctors who heal, the firefighters who extinguish and the cops who enforce deserve the millions?

I think so.

This is an opinion column. Please refer to the policy on the Opinions page.

THE CURRENT SAUCE

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, February 4, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 19

This week

Fight club

Amateur Mixed Martial Arts takes the ring at local event center.

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A safer way?

Student explores the pros and cons of allowing guns on campus.

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On the mark

Damon Jones has stellar night with 36 points against UCA.

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Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Chief justice remains in office

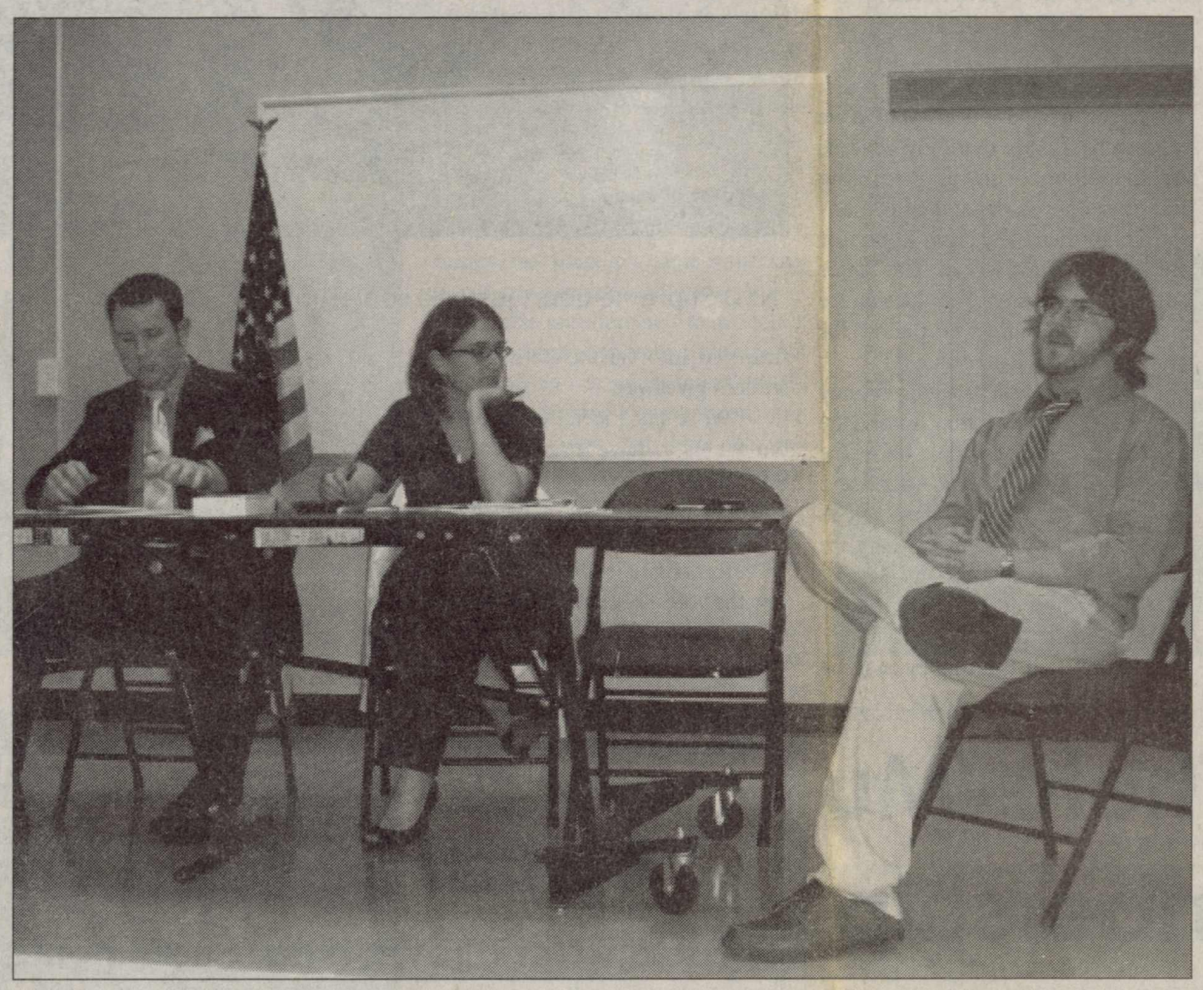


Photo by David Royal/ The Current Sauce

NSU Supreme Court Justice Paul Shelton answers questions at Monday's impeachment hearing concerning whether Chief Justice Kyle Domangue fulfilled his duties.

David Royal
News Editor

The Student Government Association voted against removing NSU Supreme Court Justice Kyle Domangue in his hearing Monday night – nine voted in favor of the impeachment, 11 against.

The goal of the hearing, which was held shortly after the SGA's weekly meeting, was for the senate to determine whether Domangue has met the requirements of his position as chief justice, and if he has not, whether the senate thinks he should be removed from office.

The proceedings of the hearing were organized like a traditional court case, with Supreme Court Justice Austin Jesmore presiding.

The Supreme Court voted last week for Jesmore to serve as interim chief justice while the impeachment proceedings took place.

In accordance with the university's constitution, the plaintiff Tim Gattie first presented his argument.

Gattie, who is speaker of the senate for the SGA, presented several items as evidence for the senate, including a letter from SGA Vice President Mark Daniels, who was unable to attend the hearing.

The letter stated that to Daniels' knowledge Domangue had only attended one cabinet meeting since taking his position and not fulfilled all of his duties in the fall semester.

Gattie then called one of Domangue's justices, Paul Shelton, as his witness.

Shelton read aloud several sections of the SGA constitution that outlined Domangue's duties.

Gattie then asked him if he felt that Domangue met these requirements.

Shelton responded to these questions by saying he thought Domangue did not meet them.

"I would say even if he was familiar [with the rules] he neglected his duties," Shelton answered Gattie.

Then, Domangue had the opportunity to question Shelton.

Domangue asked Shelton who he thought has the best knowledge of the constitution and court proceedings on the Supreme Court.

Shelton responded by saying he thought Domangue has the best knowledge, but added that he does not even know three of the other justices on the court or their knowledge concerning the subject.

Domangue also called interim Chief Justice Jesmore and Justice Ryan Rushing as his witnesses on Monday.

Domangue asked both Jesmore and Rushing if they thought he had given ample warning of when their meetings would be held, which was an argument Gattie had made earlier in the hearin. Both agreed that Domangue gave them enough time.

While being questioned, Jesmore added that he felt Domangue's knowledge of the university's judicial process and understanding of the constitution is "very strong."

After both the plaintiff and defendant presented their arguments, the senate discussed amongst itself and asked both parties questions to clarify what they had just heard.

SGA senator Megan Cullen, who was the first to speak, defended Domangue.

"If you look at the bylaws of the constitution, [Domangue] hasn't done anything wrong," Cullen said.

Cullen also encouraged the senate not to let personal feelings get in the way of its decision.

Academic Affairs Commissioner Dianne Daniels, however, took the opportunity in the discussion period to clarify that Domangue had not in fact attended a cabinet meeting this semester and that he had not presented SGA President Cody Bourque with an excuse.

During this time, Shelton also addressed everyone in attendance by saying that his decision to speak as Gattie's witness was not because of anything personal concerning Domangue, and that he was speaking on the "business aspect" of the situation.

After the discussion period ended, the senate voted by written ballot.

Jesmore announced the verdict and members of the senate and the audience began clapping until SGA Treasurer Lauren Michel called the room to order.

Once the hearing was complete, there were mixed emotions amongst the audience.

Shelton said wished to give no comment concerning how he felt about the result of the hearing for the better sake of the Supreme Court.

All Gattie said was that he hopes the proceedings revealed the problems within the court so that they may be corrected.

Domangue said he had no comment on the outcome of the impeachment hearing.

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Weather

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Saturday	75°/50°
Sunday	75°/53°
Monday	71°/52°
Tuesday	73°/53°

New clicker system engages students

Taylor Graves
Sauce Reporter

Some NSU professors are requiring students to purchase The Personal Response System, better known as "clickers."

Each device has a unique username, so when a student turns the clicker on, the teacher can count that student present.

The clickers also allow students to participate in the classroom by answering multiple choice or yes or no questions the teacher asks.

When the students answer these questions, the professor can see if a majority of the class understands the material or not.

This helps teachers move on with easier subjects and spend more time on the harder subjects for students.

Right now, the clickers are mainly used for the large freshman and sophomore math and science classes, but professors in other subjects and higher levels are also starting to move toward using the clicker system.

"As professors realize the impact clickers can have and see the value firsthand, more and more will gravitate to using them in their classes," Mark Thompson, math professor at NSU, said.

The clicker has helped Kali Davenport, a freshman music education major, pay more attention in class. She said she has bad habits of texting and not fully listening.

Although the clickers are supposed to help teachers and students in the classroom, some students question whether the clickers are actually helping, and not all students are finding the clickers helpful during class time.

Bee Guzzardi, a freshman biology major, said her biology teacher doesn't even know how to work the system, so students don't really use them.

Although students disagree on the helpfulness of the clicker, there seems to be an agreement on the problem of a new cost added to the already expensive textbook and college tuition fees.

The clickers range from $50 to $55 at the three bookstores around campus.

"I'd have to say it hurt me financially," Davenport said. "I'm taking out loans as it is, and an extra 50 bucks thrown out there is an extra 50 bucks."

Davenport said she would have spent the extra money on food or gas. Other students said they would have used it to cover other college expenses.

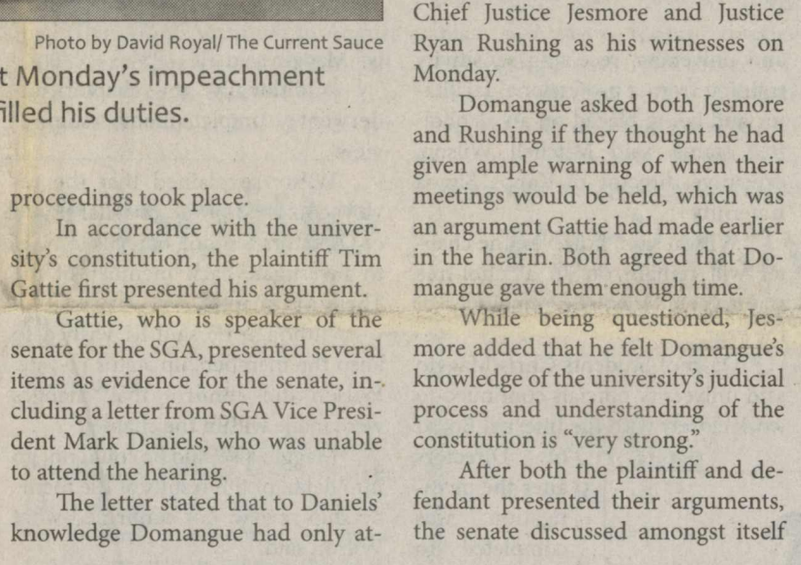
"I had to choose between buying books or the clicker," Guzzardi said. "So, I would have bought my books for class instead."

Although the clicker may not cost as much as a textbook, students may not be able to sell the clickers back when they are finished with them.

Management from the three NSU bookstores are all unsure if the device can be reused, but if it can be, all the bookstores agree the clicker will be treated like a textbook when being resold.

Even if the device can be reused, students may think before reselling their clickers, because the clicker can be used in multiple courses over multiple semesters.

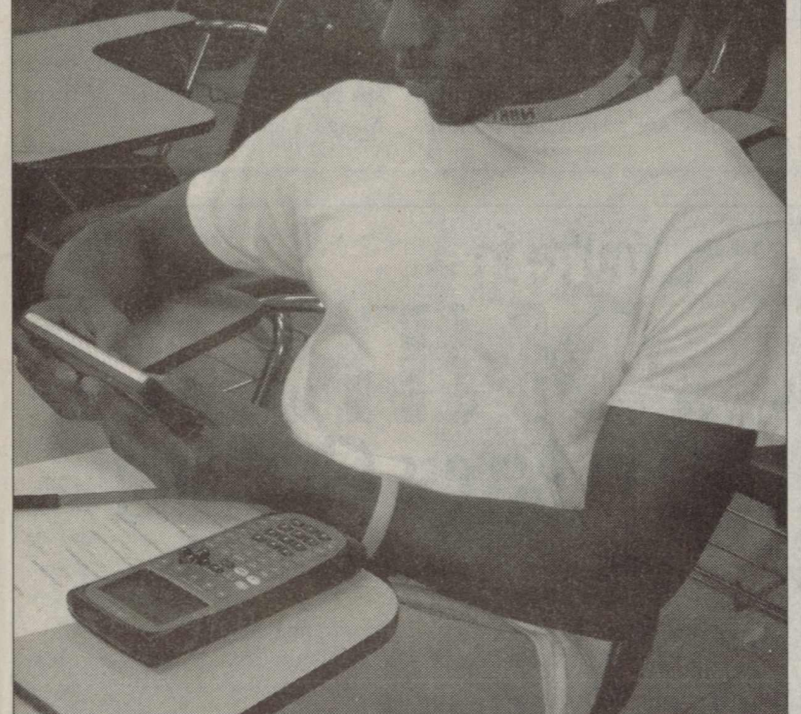
The technology is new to NSU faculty and students, but it looks like the clickers will be around for the foreseeable future.



Photos by Leigh Guidry/ The Current Sauce

Above: Deondre Smith, a freshman engineering major, uses his "clicker" to answer a question in math class.

Below: The clicker device resembles a cross between a calculator and a TV remote control.



Debt waiver postpones payments

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

All students with debt to the university less than $2000 had the opportunity to waive payment until Friday.

Letters went out on Jan. 12 informing students and parents that the deadline for those with outstanding balances had been extended from Jan. 9 until Jan 30.

The waiver, approved by Thomas Hanson, Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs and Provost, took a little of the heat off students.

Hanson couldn't elaborate on whether or not enrollment was an issue in approving the waiver, but either way, many students are grateful.

Crystalyn Whitaker, freshman liberal arts student, said she greatly appreciated it.

"There were books that I needed and luckily I borrowed a few from friends, but the waiver helped my mom out a little and she didn't have to worry about the original, early deadline," Whitaker said.

Other students didn't know about the waiver until they had already paid.

"I scrambled to pay that money, and either way, I would have [paid the debt] whether it was on the ninth or the 30th," Andrea Pugh, a freshman psychology major said. "I could really care less because worrying about how or if I could pay the school nearly drove me insane."

It is unclear how many waivers the university has approved in the past or if any will pass in the future.

Many students have said the possibility of not being able to pay at all is stressful enough, but for some, debt waivers provide that window of opportunity.

David Royal
News Editor
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SGA bill deemed unconstitutional

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

After weeks of deliberation, the NSU Supreme Court voted Tuesday that the lowering of executive board scholarships was unconstitutional.

A section of the Student Government Association constitution – Article 4, section 4, letter B – was deemed invalid and will remain as such until students have the opportunity to vote on the status of the executive board scholarships in the spring.

NSU Supreme Court Chief Justice Kyle Domangue and Justice Austin Jesmore headed up the hearing. Jesmore explained that the bylaw clearly violates Article 9, Section 1, part D of the constitution, which states that a two-thirds vote is required for all bills except those concerning the media board and the executive board scholarship.

The exceptions require a student body vote.

SGA Treasurer Lauren Michel, a member of the executive board, said she has been in support of the bill since it was introduced even though it reduced her scholarship by approximately $1,000.

The SGA budget is about $14,000 each semester – and more than $9,000 was appropriated for the executive board's scholarships, Michel said.

"When I realized that, I said, 'We've got to make a decision. Do we want to be a body that only governs and does not have any programming and does not use the students' money to help them – we use it only for ourselves? Or do we want to lower our scholarships, put a little more money in the budget and allow for more student-oriented things?'"

In order to allocate that money elsewhere in ways that might be more helpful to the student body, the executive board opted to sacrifice a portion of their scholarships. SGA President Cody Bourque, SGA Vice President Mark Daniels and Michel all voluntarily reduced their scholarships this semester.

Michel said the money may be funneled into various activities and student giveaways.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

NSU Supreme Court justices contemplate their decision about Bill FA08-030.

"We're not partial or impartial, but for us to have jurisdiction over this thing, we found a discrepancy with the whole thing," Chief Justice Domangue said.

Domangue explained that the way the vote was handled was unconstitutional – but added that depending on the way readers interpret the constitution, the scholarship changes themselves may be unconstitutional.

During the meeting, Daniels pointed out that he and the rest of the executive board voluntarily lowered their scholarships.

"This has not been implemented because it has not been voted on by the students," Daniels said. "And this will be put up for students in the spring. But, to be put on the ballot, it must be passed through the senate first."

After much deliberation, the justices called for a vote and made their decision in private.

Just before the close of the meeting, Domangue asked if there were any additional comments.

"When I gather enough good stuff together, I'll come back and appeal it to you," Daniels responded.

Sanctions reform Theta-Mu 2009 chapter membership

David Royal
News Editor

Members of the NSU Theta-Mu chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity have completed the disciplinary sanctions given to them by their national headquarters as a result of their actions at a social event held in the fall 2008 semester.

The Internal Board of Directors for Kappa Sigma fraternity deemed that the NSU chapter's "slave auction" that took place on Oct. 15, 2008 violated the Fraternity's Code of Ethics and voted that the chapter deserved to be disciplined.

The punishment given to the chapter included writing an apology letter to the fraternity and university, receiving sensitivity training from a professional facilitator and being placed on an alcohol-free status, said Mitchell Wilson, executive director of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Wilson said, however, the chapter will remain on an alcohol-free status for at least the remainder of the year.

Dean of Students Chris Maggio said university officials continued to work closely with the Internal Board of Directors after the investigation was completed to help ensure that the sanctions placed by the national headquarters were enforced.

Maggio added that the young men successfully met these standards and acted in a mature manner.

"They are responding positively," Maggio said.

Additionally, the chapter underwent a complete membership review.

Wilson explained that the review consisted of the Internal Board of Directors sending officials to NSU to investigate each member of the Theta-Mu chapter.

Although he said he wished to keep the membership status private, Wilson did confirm that changes were made within the chapter.

Maggio also said he could not go into detail of the results of the membership review, but confirmed what Wilson said.

"The chapter was thoroughly looked at, and substantial changes to membership were made," Maggio said.

Maggio said that although this was a tense time for the NSU chapter, those who have gone through this experience have learned a great deal.

"The sanctions they faced were strict, but I think they're a better, stronger chapter because of them," Maggio said.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS
Looking for a rewarding, challenging job on campus?
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Tori Ladd
Life Editor
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Health facility encourages community to get fit

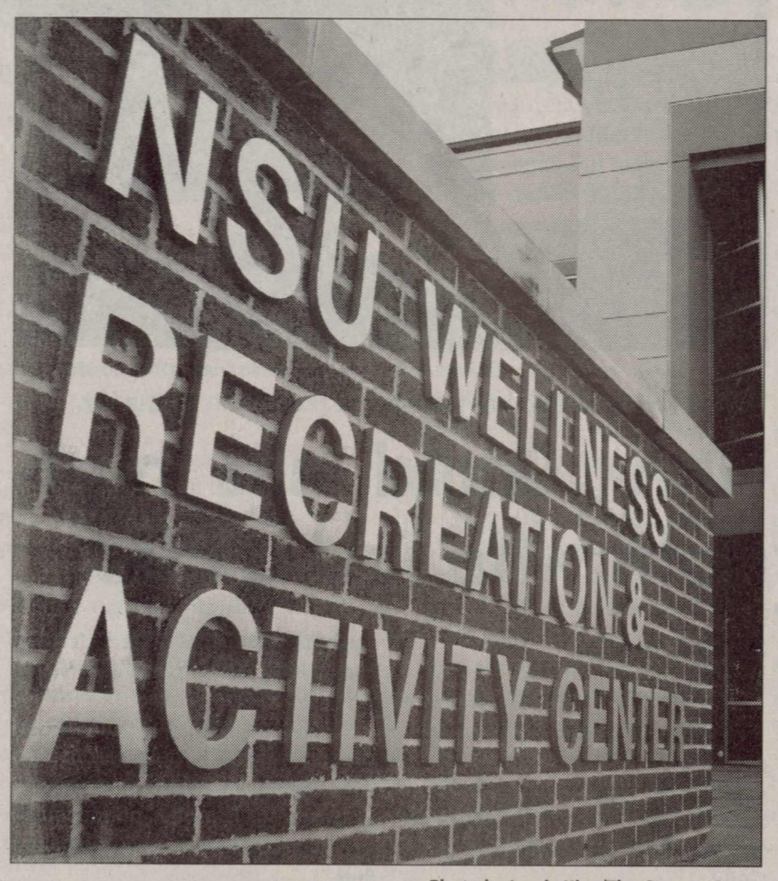


Photo by Larrie King/The Current Sauce

WRAC operating hours:

Monday-Thursday: 5:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Friday: 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

NSU has graced its students with many luxuries, including the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center.

Monday kicked off the fourth annual Fit Challenge hosted by the WRAC. There are two divisions in the challenge: students and patrons. So far there are 101 participants comprising 24 patrons and 77 students. There are 26 teams.

The outcome is yet to be determined, but there are some returning teams and even new alliances.

"I also see some new teams loaded with very consistent participants on board, so I could be upset," Wellness Coordinator Kendra Broussard said. "I do hope that there is some healthy competition formed between teams."

At the end of the competition, winners will receive prizes, but they have not been decided yet.

"This is the second time that the Fit Challenge has been under my supervision," Broussard said. "The Fit Challenge's goal is to encourage participants to use all of the amenities that the WRAC has to offer and to encourage variety in workouts to keep the muscles stimulated and challenged."

The WRAC does offer major incentive programs a year, one each semester.

Some of the other events are the "Heart Healthy Quiz," to be held Feb. 9-13, and "12 Days of Christmas" Giveaway, and something to look forward to in the future is the "Biggest Loser Competition."



Photo by Larrie King/The Current Sauce

Students take advantage of the cardio machines on the basement floor of the WRAC.

The WRAC offers intramural events, Patron of the Month acknowledgement and guest speakers. The WRAC also participates in the HealthFest.

The WRAC was built in August 2005 on campus adjacent to Roy Hall. The 90,000 sq. ft. facility houses two gyms with four basketball courts; a 3,000 sq. ft. free weights area; 2,800 sq. ft. strength machine weight area; 2,800 sq. ft. cardio-equipment area; group exercise studio; spin cycle class studio; fitness assessment lab; game room; three racquetball courts; men's locker areas; women's locker areas; two steam rooms; massage room; equipment service center; student café; meeting rooms; 1/9 mile indoor track; and all of the NSU Department of Wellness & Recreation Administrative staff offices.

All full-time students with a present valid NSU ID can participate in the Fit Challenge as well as those who use the facility and pay the appropriate fees - NSU faculty and staff, retired university employees, NSU alumni, guests and students from the Louisiana School of Math, Sciences, and the Arts.

Ladies prepare for Bracelet battle

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

LOB contestants discuss plans for the upcoming pageant.

Five Lady of the Bracelet pageant contestants met on a Thursday night to discuss pageant regulations, the rehearsal schedule, and of course, a few infamous interview questions.

"What is your favorite book and why?" is one classic.

"I actually really did like Dante's 'Inferno,' but I don't think that will go over really well," Lady of the Bracelet contestant and junior liberal arts major Shanice Major said.

Sitting around a table in the Student Activities Board office, the other contestants laughed and chimed in with some of their beloved titles.

"Somebody's going to say 'Twilight,' I just know it," freshman hospitality, management and tourism major Melanie Kay said.

"I'm in love with Edward Cullen," freshman psychology major Brittany Pippin joked. "I would marry him."

"OK, ladies," said Julia Anderson, the pageant coordinator, a patient reminder that they should be concentrating on the work at hand. She announced the dates and times of upcoming rehearsals as the girls pulled out their cell phones.

In jeans and sweatshirts, the girls didn't appear to be organizing a pageant. They were just hanging out, giggling, joking around.

But the contestants have a hand in preparing for – and even publicizing – the event. At the committee meeting, they made lists of locations for posters and attached stickers to gold wrapped mints to promote the event. The girls also composed their talent introductions and folded up T-shirts to sell as promotion for the pageant and the Children's Miracle Network.

At the top of Anderson's list was a trip to the Cane River Girls' Home. The contestants decorated gift bags to bring to the girls, who also received free tickets to the pageant.

Anderson also discussed a few pageant particulars, including the appropriate attire for escorts. Each contestant is supposed to choose an "important male figure" in her life to escort her at the pageant, Anderson said. They are not required to wear a jacket or tux, but some things are off-limits.

"Absolutely no cowboy hats," Anderson said.

The girls joked around in their down time, but with the coveted Bracelet and a full tuition scholarship on the line, they are taking the competition seriously.

The pre-pageant hustle will come to a close Saturday at 7 p.m. on the A.A. Fredericks main stage. Students who present a valid NSU ID can attend for free and participate in the People's Choice vote.

The ladies

Ten NSU students will be competing in this year's Miss Northwestern LOB Pageant.

This year's contestants include Major, Pippin, Kay, junior liberal arts major Sara Mayeux, senior journalism major Bethany Frank, senior music major Jessica Lopez, sophomore music education major Katie Stockton, freshman business administration and family and consumer sciences major Jordan McLamore, sophomore theatre major Phylicia Felix and sophomore theatre major Halli Hickman.

Some of the girls said they are not the contestants people might be expecting.

"I know I don't give off a pageant-girl vibe," Major said, citing her blue jeans, T-shirt and loud voice as evidence. "I think that's a welcome change in the pageant community."

Major, a Louisiana Scholars' College student, has never been in a pageant.

"I've always wanted to do pageants, but I've done sports all my life, and that's kind of a weird combination," Major said. "I mean, basketball and ballroom gowns don't really go together."

Major said she was a point guard and captain of her girls' basketball team in high school. She also played softball, ran the 1600 and 3200 for track and served as a volleyball statistician.

Major said she has learned how to carry herself intellectually and has been exposed to many different personalities as a student at the Scholars' College. She hopes to spread that knowledge with the help of the pageant.

"I want to show that Scholars' College has a very diverse population," she said. "They're very social, approachable people."

Kay also noted that the pageant is a chance for her to show off diversity and originality.

"I've always wanted to model, but since I'm not exactly a size two, that's something I've never really done before," Kay said.

Senior journalism major Bethany Frank said she has had a busy semester working as Editor for the 2009 Potpourri yearbook, but that she is definitely looking forward to the pageant. While getting her hair done, Frank explained that she does not expect to win, but that 16 hours of practicing how to walk across the stage is worth it if she gets to wear the Bracelet and support Children's Miracle Network.

"Back in the day, the editor would crown Lady of the Bracelet, and I just think it's a neat little twist that now the editor's trying for the crown."

The pageant

The Lady of the Bracelet pageant, a preliminary for the Miss Louisiana pageant, has been an NSU tradition for 50 years. In addition to showcasing the contestants' talents, this year's pageant will include appearances by other performance groups, including a jazz ensemble.

One student – the LOB committee chair – organizes every meeting and rehearsal with poise behind the scenes. Julia Anderson of the Student Activities Board has been working with the contestants since preliminary talent auditions last semester.

Anderson, an AOII alumna, said she plans to graduate in May with a bachelor's in social work. She is working full time as an intern, working part time at Trail Boss and taking 21 hours in addition to working with the pageant contestants.

The pageant includes talent, evening gown, swimsuit and interview competitions.

Some contestants acknowledged a division of the intellectual and physical aspects of the pageant.

While the interview portion counts for a large percentage of the overall score, the contestants also dedicated a significant amount of effort to looking good.

One contestant, Bethany Frank, said she thinks that intelligence is beautiful, and that the pageant should be taken seriously.

Mayeux put it best when she likened the pageant to another situation.

"The synthesis between the two is that you're interviewing for a job. I might go into a job interview and give a brilliant interview, but if I'm not presenting myself well, they're not going to hear what I have to say. If I walk into an interview for Johns Hopkins medical school in pajamas, it doesn't matter if I made a 45 on the MCAT and have a 4.0 GPA and speak six languages. I'm not going to get the slot."

Mayeux said the pageant is not so much about "the look" as it is about applying for the job of representing Northwestern State at the Miss Louisiana pageant in a classic, respectful and professional manner.

For the full version of this story and more photos, visit our Web site.

Parkway Cinema

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movie times

"Coraline"	**"Pink Panther 2"**
Rated PG	Rated PG
6:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.
"Push"	**"Taken"**
Rated PG-13	Rated PG-13
6:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
9:30 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
"Just Not That Into You"	**"The Uninvited"**
Rated PG-13	Rated PG-13
6:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
9:30 p.m.	9:15 p.m.

Black History Month Fact

On this day...

Austin T. Walden became Georgia's first black judge since Reconstruction on this date in 1964.

Sojourner Truth (Isabella Baumfree), preacher, abolitionist, speaker and women's rights advocate, was commemorated on a U.S. postage stamp on this date in 1986.

Rosa L. Parks, civil rights activist and inspiration for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, was born in Tuskegee, Ala., on this date in 1913. Her refusal to give up her seat on the bus led to the historical year-long boycott of the bus system.

Courtesy of www.yenoba.com.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
February 4, 2009

Ring Rulers reign in Natchitoches

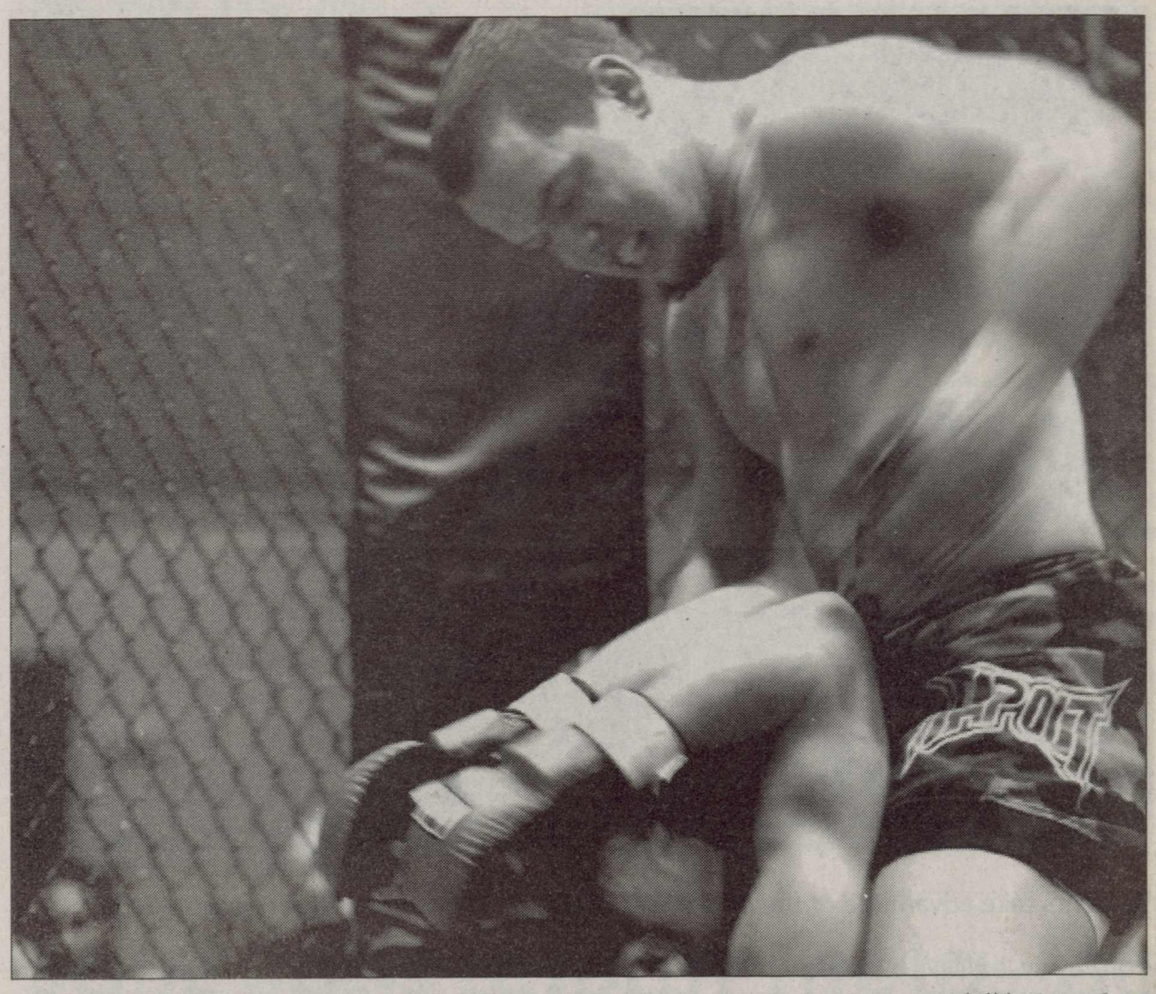


Photo by Lauren Rachal/The Current Sauce

Mixed Martial Arts contestants battle it out at the Natchitoches Event Center.

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

For most people, going to work and getting punched in the face is an inconceivable notion, but MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) fighters call that part of the job.

On Friday night the Natchitoches Event Center held an amateur MMA fight put on by Ring Rulers.

This marked the second time that Ring Rulers has made its way through Natchitoches.

"In most college cities there are a ton of other things to be doing, but here in Natchitoches there really isn't all that many," Ring Rulers promoter Will Broyles said. "We had a lot of good turnout the first time we were here and saw Natchitoches as an almost untapped market for the state of Louisiana. Also, Natchitoches is a beautiful place and especially with the new event center, it has great facilities."

With a violent sport such as MMA, where the name of the game is to inflict as much damage on the other person as possible, safety has become a huge issue.

According to Louisiana Boxing and Wrestling Commissioner Alvin Topham, the state is forcing the MMA fighters to wear a six-ounce glove to "lesson the blow."

"In my six years of presiding over the MMA portion of the Boxing and Wrestling Commission, we [Louisiana] have never had anyone stay longer than overnight in the hospital," Topham said.

"We have expertly trained referees, and there are always paramedics never more than four seconds away. We understand that maybe these amateurs won't ever go pro, but we do want them to grow old."

With this being an amateur event, none of the participants got paid. Fighters pay for most of their training out of their own pockets.

For most of the fighters, training is something they have to find time for on top of working a regular job.

One fighter, Joey Fried, said that when he started it was tough for him to train and work at the same time.

Fried also said that without the proper amount of training there really isn't any reason to jump into the ring "unless you have death wish or just really enjoy pain," but Fried said he can't imagine doing anything else.

"I love what I do, and that's the most important part, even if it involves me getting punched in the face," Fried said.



Photo by Sarah Cramer/The Current Sauce

The NSU Flute Guild hosted its first flute clinic Saturday.

Flute Guild hits high note with first clinic

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

Flutists from around Louisiana gathered on NSU's campus Saturday to perfect their skills at the First Annual Flute Clinic hosted by the Natchitoches-Northwestern Flute Guild.

The turnout was small, but attendees said they were able to leave with a great deal of new information.

"It was great… that my students learned a lot," Dennette McDermott, who directed the festival, said. "That's probably more of a priority, I think, than how many people did we bring here."

The event featured guest clinician Eldred Spell, a professor of flute at Western Carolina University, who has performed throughout the United States, Canada and England. Spell conducted several sessions, including a session on choosing an instrument, flute repair and a master class.

The master class allowed select students, which included two high school students, to play a piece for Spell and receive feedback, McDermott said.

"We got a lot out of it," Erin Newsom, of Fontainebleu High School in Mandeville, said. "We learned technique and proper breathing."

Several of McDermott's NSU students were able to participate in the master class, as well. Cain-Oscar Bergeron explained that the class was a public lesson, which was much like a private lesson, where the instructor coaches the students on a personal basis.

"We got to hear the various pieces and how he would interpret them and how to make them better," Bergeron said. "[We learned] different postures and how to hold the flute."

The students were thrilled when Spell brought with him an antique flute, also known as the Louis Lot. The flute was one of the first silver models of the open-hole key flute, used by the students today, Bergeron and senior flute performance major, Jose Bustamante, explained.

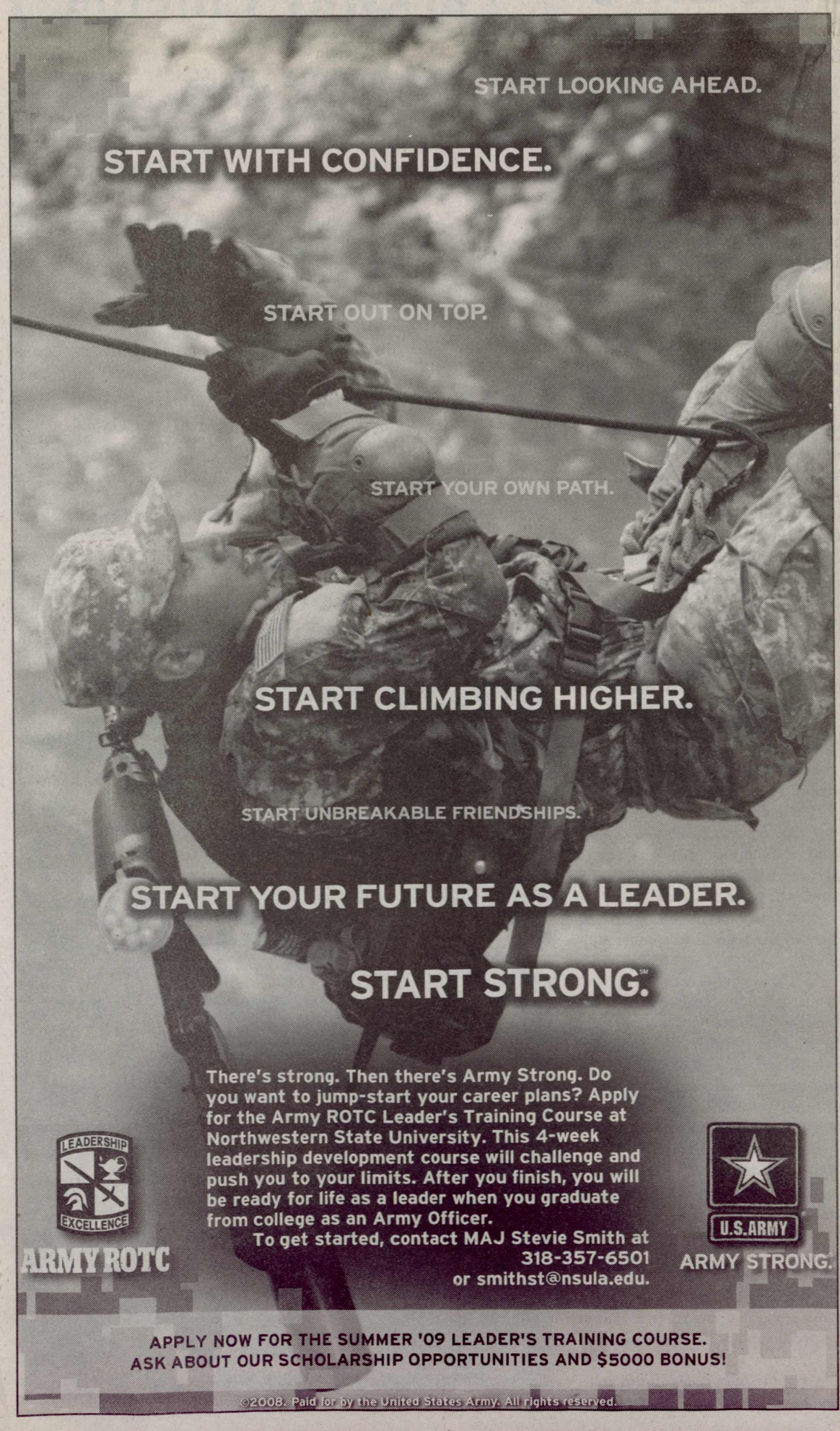
"We were really excited to see it," Bustamante said.

Those who attended the clinic were also able to attend Flute Repair 101, where they learned the basic parts of the flute and how to repair them.

"You [may] have a performance, and five minutes before, your screw comes out. You [need to] know how to fix it," Bustamante said.

The other sessions offered at the clinic were an open flute choir reading session with professor Sally Horak of Centenary College and more critique sessions with Horak and professor Andrea Loewy of University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

The clinic ended with a concert, where Spell played pieces by well-known composers, such as Mozart and Beohm. The concert was free, and the clinic's guests, NSU faculty members and students attended the event.



Fast Fact

This is the third year Louisiana has come in last in health-care. Louisiana residents are now 23.9 percent below the national average.

Courtesy of Hopenetworks.org

Demon athletics excel in academics

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

Who said athletes couldn't be scholars?

It's not just those whose worlds revolve around their studies who excel in the classroom.

At Northwestern State, 65 athletes qualified for the Southland Conference Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll.

Nine of the 65 had 4.0 grade point averages.

Capitol Bank presents the SLC Honor Roll.

It recognizes student athletes from football, soccer, volleyball and cross country at the SLC member institutions.

The athletes were honored if they earned a GPA of 3.0 or better during their sport seasons.

There were three Demon football players with perfect GPAs, three Lady Demons soccer players, two cross country participants and one volleyball player.

Seniors Dudley Guice, Chris Pearson and Yelena Enwere; juniors Manette Keller and Missy Oakley; sophomore April Madden and freshmen Adam Varnado, Justin Aldredge and Caleb Lonsberry qualified for the Honor Roll.

Junior business major Missy Oakley managed her time despite the fact that soccer consumed 11-12 hours of her time during the week.

Oakley was one of the nine with 4.0 GPAs.

At times, Oakley said she found it hard to balance her schoolwork when it came to road trips.

"It's hard to take a quiz or study on a bus," Oakley said.

Sophomore business major April Madden also used good time management skills to her advantage and always tried to get ahead on work before traveling to away games.

"It's hard to take a quiz or study on a bus." -Missy Oakley

The road trips made some things difficult, but she still managed to maintain her 4.0 GPA.

"It was rough," Madden said.

Of the 12 SLC members, Northwestern State ranked No. 4. Northwestern and UTSA shared top honors in soccer.

Each institution had 22 athletes recognized. Twenty-two out of 31 on their roster meant 71 percent qualified.

"Soccer has always been known to have the highest GPA of all the athletes on campus," Madden said. "We're just trying to keep up the standards."

Oakley said if she had to encourage her fellow teammates to excel, as she has, she'd tell them, "It's just as important to work hard in the classroom as it is on the field."

Joe Cunningham
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February 4, 2009

Red vs. Blue: Who we really are

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



When people talk politics, the question always seems to be, "Are you a democrat or a republican?"

When I am asked this question, I respond by saying I am a conservative.

Sure, I am a registered republican, but truth be told that is nothing but a title. Being a conservative or a liberal, I believe, is the way you live.

It is the way you decide what is wrong or right in your opinion. It is the way you make your decisions.

As a conservative, I stand for the old American views – the traditional view on marriage, the right of life to every human being, and the idea that government should not control every aspect of one's life.

I was raised by very traditional, conservative parents, but as a strong-willed individual, I chose not to just follow my parents, but to branch out myself and decide what I believed in.

I found that the way my parents believed was also the way I believed. Not because they did, but because it is the good old American way. The conservative values are what have gotten us this far and are what will keep us strong as the years go on.

As a conservative, I believe like Ronald Reagan believed, that everyone has a purpose and that average Americans are what keep this country strong.

Conservatives believe in living like we have lived for so long.

We are not easily persuaded and are not impressed with the word "change." Our sole focus is to keep America free and out of harm's way.

We do not believe in backing down from a fight, rather when our country is attacked, we take action to show those who mean us harm that they are not welcome on our land. Conservatives do not worry about saying the right things to impress the right people, but rather we know that no matter what people think or say, we will keep fighting for the right thing, no matter what the cost.

So many people change their minds when their ratings go down or people start talking negatively about them. But conservatives stay strong and put their country first. In his campaign, Sen. John McCain's slogan was "country first," and though we as average people are not running for president, that should be every single person's slogan.

Country first, above ourselves. Above everything else, we are Americans and we should all fight to keep the American way in this country.

Conservatives do that to the best of their ability, and that is what makes me proud to be one.

Heath Boddie
Guest Columnist



For everyone who doesn't know, I am the current vice president of College Democrats here at Northwestern State University.

Last year's election was possibly the best year for democrats in at least the past decade.

Democrat Barack Obama defeated republican John McCain by a wide margin, and eight additional democrat senators brought our members to 57 with two independents who caucus with the democrats.

This, including the reelection of democrat Mary Landrieu to the Senate, brought our total number to 59.

Finally, 2008 saw Democrats gaining 20 seats bringing our total number to 255 democrat members in the House.

This being said, we finally get to see what democrats stand for with a democrat in the White House, and a larger democratic control of the House and Senate.

We will be able to push democratic ideas that will better the country and move the nation forward.

Democrats are not brainless idiots who offer no ideas, contrary to what our friends over at College Republicans would like everyone to believe.

Democrats stand for clean air and better water quality, transparent government and not allowing illegal wiretapping of American citizens.

Democrats stand for ending the senseless war in Iraq, making college affordable for students and no longer giving tax cuts to the top one percent of Americans in the bogus belief in trickle-down economics.

Democrats stand for women's rights, overturning the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy and marriage equality for all.

Democrats stand for equal pay for all, protecting our environment with green jobs and recycling, and expanding our economy to lift millions out of poverty.

Democrats stand for labor protection for workers, stopping global warming, acknowledging that the United States has a role in the world by elevating the position of the United Nations ambassador to cabinet level.

Most of all, Democrats stand to prevent someone such as Governor Sarah Palin with her right-wing political ideology from holding the office of President. Ever.

Ruth Wisher is a freshman journalism major, and Heath Boddie is a junior education major. Neither of their views reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university.

Be Frank: Safety comes first

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



We live in a beautiful nation.

We have symbols glorifying the freedoms we earned not so many years ago. Symbols honoring the men who died so we can exercise our rights. Symbols that remind us daily that we are Americans and we should be proud.

The Constitution provides us with rights, not privileges, but occasionally our rights are muted to better those around us.

Our freedom of speech is quieted with each politically correct word. No longer can Americans properly use words as defined in the dictionary because someone, somewhere will take offense.

In order to ensure we are treated fairly, we are encouraged not to wear religious memorabilia to interviews in order to avoid offending anyone and to ensure we get a fair shot.

Sometimes we need our freedoms quieted for the overall better good.

Each man willing should be able to carry a firearm, but sometimes it is just not the place. Sometimes our weapons need to be left at the house. I discussed safety last week. I brought to question society's facades and said students should look past these facades and not rest their sense of safety in the hands of a higher institution. Rather, safety should be in the hands of the individual, but those hands should not be holding a gun.

Safety is the quality of averting or not causing injury, danger or loss, according to the Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language.

Guns don't do that.

Guns encourage danger and cause harm and loss.

Some may argue that guns don't kill, people do. Well, that is arguably correct.

But the same argument could be taken that pens don't write, people do. The only problem: a pen is instrumental in the writing process. It is a tool used to scribe words, just as a gun is a tool used to kill or cause harm.

A student or teacher walking around campus with a gun is not any safer than someone who left the gun at home.

A gun is a tool used for self-defense; it should not be needed in a classroom.

There are multiple tools for self-defense and each has a place.

Some choose tools such as pepper spray, pocketknives and for some girls, it is a purse. Others prefer to use a gun.

The reader can spend all day finding statistics regarding the causalities of weapons and guns. But the thing about statistics; you can get them to say whatever you want.

They are easily skewed and altered.

There are not consistent statistics regarding gun control. Each party takes its opinion and finds statistics to coincide.

As far as opinions go, guns do not belong in the classroom. Pepper spray and pocketknives belong in a purse or pocket to ensure the protection, not safety, of the individual without potentially encouraging vigilantism.

Regardless of the background tests needed to obtain a firearm, students are not trained to take on a gunman. That is why there are men and women with badges on campus and in the cities.

The protection of the campus should be left in the hands of a trained professional, while the protection of the individual remains in the hands of the individual.

Students need to find safety within themselves, not behind a barrel. They should not walk into a classroom and find fear. They should be able to attend an institute of higher learning and actually earn an education.

There are people in the world who do bad things and have bad intents. There are people who choose to take weapons places they do not belong, but that does not mean everyone should bring a gun with them to ensure "safety."

Students need to be aware of their surroundings and not walk around with the naïve thought that it can't happen to them.

Students need to be aware of safety procedures and how to conduct themselves in a time of crisis without a firearm.

There are many symbols in the world that project different ideas and emotions.

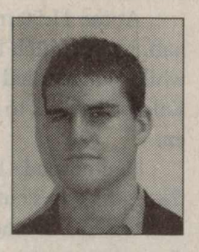
Lady Liberty, the flag, the eagle and the Liberty Bell are all symbols reminding us of our journeys, freedoms and the blood lost to ensure those.

Guns are symbols. But they should not be used as symbols for personal safety.

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www.thecurrentsauce.com

Last eight years really were torture

Daniel Musick
Guest Columnist



While the majority of Americans rejoice that the previous failed administration is out of office and Iraqis have come together around a couch-sized statue of a shoe (dedicated to the man who threw a shoe at former President Bush; so much for being greeted as "liberators"), President Obama is inheriting a country in shambles.

With a nation that has debt in the trillions, a recession (going to be a depression by the summer, for Americans are losing 500,000 jobs a month) and a broken Justice Department, this is some time to be president.

However, if you're looking for someone who thinks everything is just peachy, look no further than former President Bush.

In an exit interview he had in the last week of his presidency, he described not finding WMDs in Iraq as "a disappointment."

To paraphrase my roommate, going to Chili's and realizing the wait will be more than an hour is a disappointment. Finding out your entire justification for a war is non-existent when more than 4,000 of our American soldiers, whom we supposedly support, have been killed is embarrassingly devastating and almost impeachable.

Yet, even with everything riding against Bush, he kept his head high. In another exit interview he gave to Brit Hume of Fox News, Bush admitted to authorizing torture.

"And I'm in the Oval Office and I am told that we have captured Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and the professionals believe he has information necessary to secure the country. So I ask what tools are available for us to find information from him and they gave me a list of tools, and I said, 'Are these tools deemed to be legal?' And so we got legal opinions before any decision was made," Bush callously stated.

These are Bush's words, but if you still think that this is some stupid liberal trying to bend quotes to achieve his objective, consider this.

Susan Crawford, the top Bush administration official in charge of deciding whether or not to prosecute Guantanamo Bay detainees, concluded very recently that the U.S. military tortured Sept. 11 suspects.

"We tortured Mohammed al-Qahtani," stated Crawford. "His treatment met the legal definition of torture."

What treatment might she be talking about? Minor things such as exposure to extreme cold, food and water deprivation, and waterboarding to the extent where at one point, Qahtani's heart rate dropped to 35 beats per minute.

It is because of this torture that Crawford denied Qahtani a trial. Keep in mind that all of this is from a Bush appointee. Susan Crawford is a registered republican and has been her entire life, so any arguments of a partisan witch-hunt are now just plain silly.

Now some might be thinking, "But we don't actually do anything to people that waterboard," but you would be so wrong. In your spare time, Google "America vs. Hideji Nakamura, Yukio Asano, Seitara Hata and Takeo Kita."

In this case, America tried and convicted all of these people for waterboarding American soldiers during World War II. Even somewhere as close to us as San Jacinto County, Texas, in 1983 convicted a sheriff named James Parker and three of his deputies for waterboarding a suspect they had detained.

So, America tortured human beings. The question now is, "Where do we go from here?" While President Obama states that those who did wrong will see justice, he also says that he believes in looking forward rather than backward.

I believe that if we allow someone to commit a crime and get away with it, it sets an awful precedent for others to follow. While I am a liberal, I will be deeply dissatisfied with President Obama if he allows Bush and his administration to go unpunished. It may be very difficult to do right now with the country the way it is, but history has shown what happens when a nation decides to put something on the back burner to deal with it later.

Remember the Civil War?

Half the Battle: Teens have sex

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



There is a popular song called "Seventeen Forever" with lyrics that are... a little disturbing.

"We're one mistake from being together, but let's not ask why it's not right. You won't be 17 forever, and we can get away with this tonight."

Teen sex is an issue that springs up every so often after a news report on teen pregnancy and some headline shouting "Where are Your Kids Having Sex?" The usual media scare tactics.

I hate the media.

Teens having sex? Of course they're having sex. If you don't think teens are having sex, I want you to go back to bed because clearly you are already dreaming.

The problem is how young and how often and with what protection. Girls are hitting puberty much earlier than ever before, and boys... well, good luck finding a boy who doesn't see boobs in everything at that age.

We have laws concerning the age of consent. When is a person an adult?

Adulthood is... weird. It's subjective. You can drive two tons of death at 16; vote; smoke and go to war at 18; but can't drink alcohol until 21.

Generally, age of sexual consent is 18. Having sex with anyone younger is considered to be "statutory rape" – the partner is not old enough to give consent, legally.

The laws involving consent are great deterrents, too, right?

Ever heard of Make-out Point? According to ubrandictionary.com, it is "a popular place to park your car, preferably a convertible, and make out with your girl."

You see it in the movies all the time. Cars lined up like they're at a drive-in movie.

As soon as the kids can drive, they are going to explore more than the roads.

And how many start before that?

Mom? Dad? Are you sure your kids are home alone?

Kids are kids, and they will always be exploring.

Two-year-olds explore all the time and end up finding mommy's lipstick and drawing a Picasso-esque mural on the wall.

Teenage girls end up wearing mommy's lipstick and drawing it on their boyfriend's face.

Teenage boys explore the teenage girls who are wearing mommy's makeup.

Let's rethink these consent laws, and let them have their lust (or is it love?), and invest in some education (real education, not the scare tactics) about sex and STDs. That's what they need, not overprotection.

Your daughter is not getting raped if you catch her with her boyfriend, unless you hear her screaming "no!" over and over.

Then you can grab the shotgun, Pappy.

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February 4, 2009

BS'in with the Bull: Unsatisfied times XLIII

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor



I would first like to start off by saying I told you the Steelers would win Super Bowl XLIII.

I also would like to add that the Arizona Cardinals made the game a lot more interesting than I thought it would be.

It wasn't as good as last year's, but last year's Super Bowl would have been hard to top.

So, in having said that, I feel it is necessary to give Kurt Warner his props.

He went 31-43 for 377 yards and three touchdowns and one interception. It seemed his decrepit right arm still had some life to it.

Personally, I think Warner should have at least been mentioned in the Super Bowl MVP talk even though he lost, because I definitely don't think Santonio Holmes should have been.

If anyone, it should have been "Big" Ben or James Harrison who had a 100-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Because if you don't know this, as a man of 250+ pounds, 100 yards is an extremely long way to run when people are chasing you. He didn't actually catch his wind until midway through the fourth quarter.

Nonetheless, congratulations to Santonio Holmes on his MVP performance and the Steelers for their sixth Super Bowl victory in franchise history.

The reason I am excited the Steelers won is that now the Dallas Cowboy fans and San Francisco 49ers fans have absolutely nothing to hang their hats on. For I believe it was Ricky Bobby's dad that said, "If you're not first, you're last."

Now that we have this whole Super Bowl talk out of the way, let's get down to the important stuff – the commercials and the halftime show.

I'll start with the commercials. Overall, I was highly disappointed.

I mean, there were a couple that caught my eye.

Like, the first Bud Light commercial where the guy gets thrown out of the window, or the Doritos commercials with the magic ball that grants free Doritos and the one where something crazy happens with every bite he takes.

Also, my favorite one was the one where the koala gets punched in the face, even though I have no idea what the commercial is for.

The commercial that pissed me off the most was the "McGruber" commercial, or should I say "Pepsuber."

This commercial had promise because I remembered the "McGruber" SNL skit and thought it was hilarious. So, when I saw that and the actually real McGuyver, I thought "this will be a great commercial."

Boy, was I wrong. It went all weird and turned into a big giant ball of frustration.

I still can't believe these companies paid $3 million for these 30-second air spots.

Now on to the halftime show. I am still amazed that when one boob gets popped out on the air at the Super Bowl the halftime show is no longer a spectacle to be seen, but it got turned into the geriatric club.

We have had: Paul McCartney, Aerosmith, The Boss, Tom Petty, Prince and The Rolling Stones.

Please don't get me wrong – they were all amazing 20 years ago.

I just think it's funny that one boob gets shown for .124 seconds and the halftime show changes, but Bruce Springsteen doing a crotch slide into the camera is not a problem.

I had nightmares about that.

This is an opinion column. Please refer to the policy on the Opinions page.

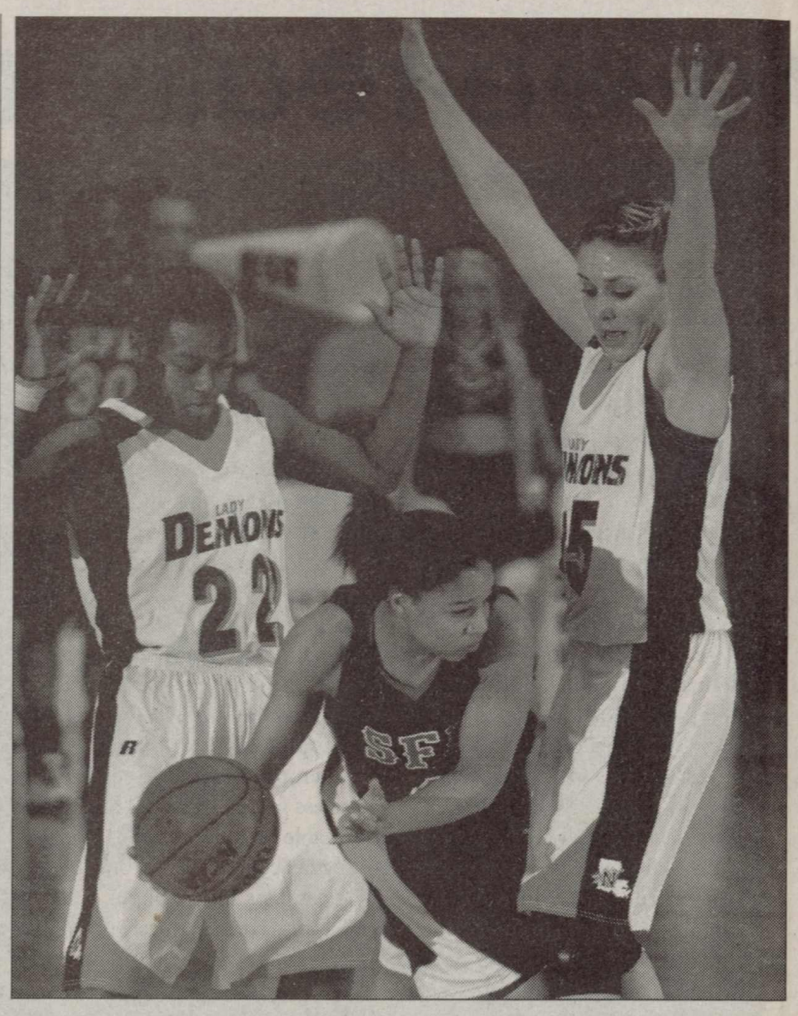


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Demetria White (22) and Lyndzee Greene (15) defend a Stephen F. Austin player in the Lady Demons' 76-69 victory.

Key stat of the game

NSU free throws: 19-24 (79%)
UCA free throws: 1-13 (7.7%)

Lady Demons rally to find road victory

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Lady Demons, who are in the midst of a three-game winning streak, hold a game-and-a-half lead in the Eastern Division of the Southland Conference after wins against Stephen F. Austin University and the University of Central Arkansas.

The Lady Demons have struggled on the road this season, posting a 4-6 record away from Prather Coliseum.

The young Lady Demon squad stumbled early, trailing a struggling Sugar Bears team by 11 at halftime, but rallied in the second half to overcome the deficit, winning 57-54.

Both teams connected on 33.3 percent of their field goals, with the Sugar Bears knocking down seven 3-pointers, while NSU made only one from beyond the arc.

The game was decided at the free-throw line.

The Lady Demons sank 19-24 (79 percent) from the charity stripe, while the Sugar Bears were bitter from the line.

UCA made only one out of 13, for a staggering 7.7 percent.

"Usually we don't do so well from the free-throw line," Lady Demon head coach Jennifer Graf said. "We started the year shooting in the upper 50s, and now we're almost to 70 percent. Tonight we made them when they counted."

Sophomore guard Jessica McPhail and freshman point guard Demetria White sank 83 percent of their free throws, each hitting five of six.

Junior forward Sherrion Thomas led all scorers with 13, coming off the bench.

Thomas shot 4-7 from the field, while hitting all five of her free-throw attempts.

She added six rebounds in the contest.

"I felt like it was a group effort for us, " Graf said. "Different people were stepping up to the free-throw line. Sherrion Thomas came into the game, while Courtney [Shead] was a little banged up and gave us some great minutes and some boards, especially in the first half."

Three days prior to their third consecutive victory, the Lady Demons hosted bitter rivals, the Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks.

NSU started the game on fire, running to an early 23-4 lead.

The Ladyjacks cut the 19-point deficit to a two-point game late in the first half.

With the score at 33-30, the Lady Demons posted a 7-0 run to end the first half, leading by 10 at halftime.

NSU never trailed in the second half, but SFA managed to pull within one with two minutes remaining.

The Lady Demons then pulled away to a 76-69 victory.

The ladies in purple and white have posted an unblemished home record, winning all nine games in Prather Coliseum. Lamar University (11-0) and the University of Texas at Arlington (5-0) are the only other conference teams that are undefeated at home.

Junior guard Lyndzee Greene had a game-high 16 points, with junior forward Courtney Shead posting 13.

Sophomore guard Brooke Shepherd added 10.

Five Ladyjacks scored in double figures, with Whitney Cormier having a team-high 14.

Cormier also recorded a game-high 13 rebounds, the only player with double figures in that category.

The Lady Demons return to action tonight, putting their home record on the line against McNeese State University.

The Cowgirls enter the game 10-9, 2-4 in conference.

NSU improves to 13-6, the best overall record in conference.

Not only have the Lady Demons won three straight, they have won seven of eight overall.

The conference-leading Lady Demons will tip off at 7 p.m. in Prather Coliseum.

Demons, Jones shoot past Bears

Jake Cooper
Sauce Reporter

The Northwestern State Demons (9-12 overall, 1-5 SLC) tipped off against their Eastern Division foe, the University of Central Arkansas (9-11 overall, 2-5 SLC), in an attempt to buck their eight-game losing streak on Saturday.

Big time performances by freshman center William Mosley and junior guard Damon Jones helped the Demons earn their first conference win of the year in an 80-64 handling of the visiting UCA Bears.

The consistent defensive presence of William Mosley set the tone very early in the first half.

Just 30 seconds into the game, Mosley blocked a lay-up attempt by Central Arkansas' Chris Brown and picked the pocket of center Brian Marks.

Behind Mosley's three blocked shots in the first half, NSU held the University of Central Arkansas to just 21 first half points to the Demons' 34.

Mosley finished the game with 10 points, 10 rebounds, one steal and four blocked shots to account for his third double-double of the season.

At the 11:50 mark in the second half, UCA's Mitch Reuter hit a lay-up while being fouled by senior forward Kalem Porterie to move within seven.

Reuter made his free throw and the margin was cut to six.

On the Demons' next possession, junior guard Damon Jones made a 3-pointer that was assisted by sophomore forward Devin White.

Along with extending the lead back out to nine points, the bucket also ignited the crowd.

The junior guard from Winnfield, La., wouldn't stop there.

In the next seven minutes, Damon Jones went on to hit seven shots in a row from the field, five of them being 3-pointers.

In the same span, Jones also added a blocked shot and an offensive board.

When his dismantling of the Bears had mostly ended, NSU's lead expanded to 12.

Jones finished the game with a career-high 36 points on 12-19 shooting, two offensive rebounds, two assists, one steal and one block in only 28 minutes of play.

Jones' 36 points is fifth best by a Demon in Prather Coliseum's 45-year history.

"The great thing about Damon's scoring is all of it came within the flow of our offense," head coach Mike McConathy told the Sports Information Department.

"We weren't doing anything special to get it to him. He took 19 shots, and there was one that I'm thinking we'd want back. He missed a putback in traffic late or he's got even more. He got hot at a point in the game where we were playing not to lose a little bit and gave us a spark that got us over the hump."

Junior forward Mitch Reuter and junior guard Marcus Pillow lead all scorers for UCA with 18 apiece.

Reuter went 5-9 from the field and 8-10 from the charity stripe.

Pillow finished 6-15 from the field, including 3-7 from behind the arc, and 3-4 from the line.

The Demons go back on the road this Wednesday to take on archrival McNeese State at 7 p.m. in Lake Charles.

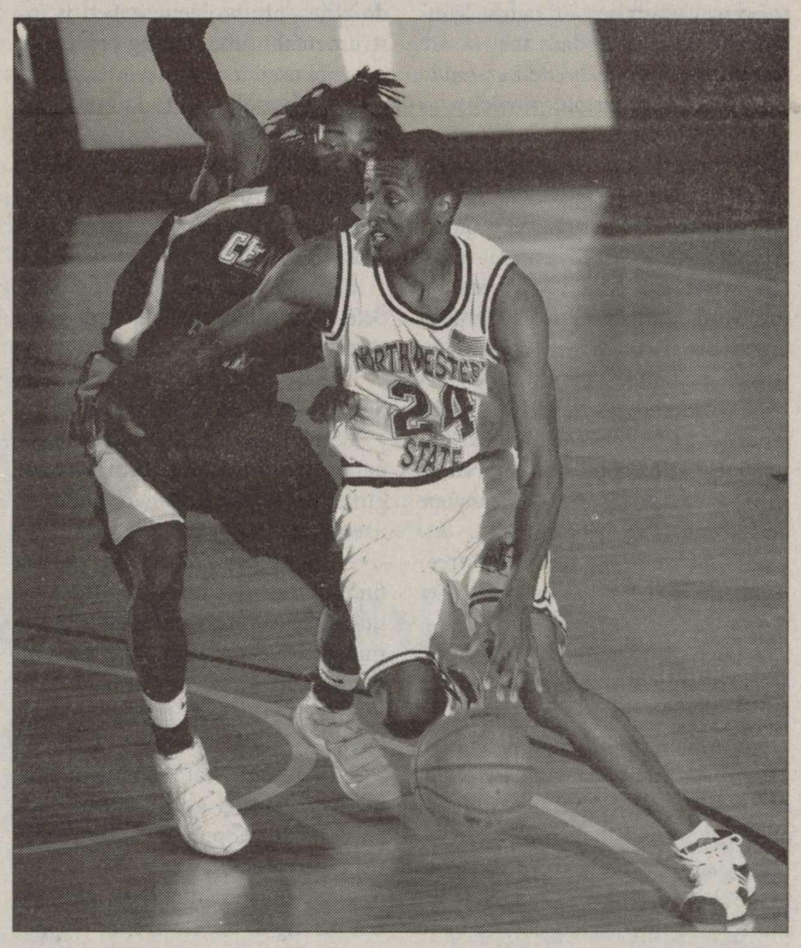


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Junior guard Damon Jones (24) drives the lane to score two of his career-high 36 points Saturday in the Demons' win.

Men's Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4	@ McNeese State	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	Texas-Arlington	2 p.m.
Feb. 11	Stephen F. Austin	7 p.m.
Feb. 14	@Central Arkansas	4 p.m.
Feb. 18	McNeese State	7 p.m.

*All games are SLC matchups

Women's Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4	McNeese State	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	@ Texas-Arlington	4 p.m.
Feb. 11	@ Stephen F. Austin	7 p.m.
Feb. 14	Central Arkansas	2 p.m.
Feb. 18	@ McNeese State	7 p.m.

*All games are SLC matchups

Track and field hurdle into Houston, coach sees room for improvement

Spencer Pearson
Sauce Reporter

As the Houston Indoor Invitational track meet came to a close on Saturday, the NSU Demons came away with several high-place finishes.

Junior Michael Green, who holds an SLC-best time of 48.44 seconds in the 400-meter dash, came away with first place for the 400 with a time of 49.28.

Green outran Lane Dennis (49.29) of Sam Houston State University by one-hundredth of a second.

Green also ran a 22.46 to win first place in the B division 200-meter dash.

In the women's weight throw, junior DeJon Griffin tossed her way to a second place finish with a distance of 53-4 1/2.

Junior Michael Hill placed third overall in the 1600-meter hurdles with a time of 8:02, and senior Daniel Yarbrough placed third in the weight throw with a distance of 60 -10 3/4.

The NSU men's 4x400 meter relay placed third overall. The team consisted of Green, sophomore Jamie Emery, junior Michael Batts and senior Chris Pearson.

Pearson also placed fourth overall in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:57.

The Lady Demons 4x400 meter relay set a season-best time of 3:56.31 and placed fifth with that time.

"We did some things that went really well, but there is a lot of room for improvement," head track coach Leon Johnson said.

The team faced physical and psychological hardships during the meet.

"They could have gotten their bodies better prepared for the meet, and there was a two-hour delay," sophomore sprinter Jeremy Thomas said. "Their minds were exhausted because they were ready to run two hours before. They were mentally exhausted."

Thomas also added that some of the athletes had good showings against good competition, giving them hope and optimism for future meets.

Some of those close races featured conference competition. Even though there is much room for improvement, the Demons are competing with conference foes early.

The Demons expect to have a strong showing against conference opponents.

They are optimistic of the outcome of future conference competitions and are relying on some of the underclassmen to contribute.

"We are counting on those younger runners," Thomas said. "They give us hope for the future."

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 20

This week

Valentine's Day

The day after the national holiday has historic significance.

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Pageant Outlook

Contestant reflects on her own experience in recent pageant.

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Tsk, Tsk

Sports co-editor expresses his displeasure with athlete steroid use.

p. 6

Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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3 Life
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6 Sports

Weather

Wednesday	73°/41°
Thursday	71°/46°
Friday	72°/38°
Saturday	63°/41°
Sunday	64°/46°
Monday	65°/44°
Tuesday	68°/43°



Photo by Gary Hardamon/ The Current Sauce

Freshman psychology major Brittany Pippin won the 50th Annual Lady of the Bracelet Pageant Saturday.

2009 LOB crowned

See story, p. 4.

Students face FAFSA

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

In regards to financial aid, time is indeed money, so students and parents are filing taxes and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before the end of February, which is Financial Aid Awareness Month.

For some the FAFSA means financial aid to pay for tuition and other fees. For others it means being denied federal aid because of their salaries or the salaries of their parents. Atop the load of coursework students deal with, filling out the FAFSA can be a stressful process.

The sooner the FAFSA is processed, the sooner financial aid is awarded. The NSU Office of Financial Aid encourages students to begin the FAFSA process as soon as possible. The time one's FAFSA is processed can determine the amount of financial aid awarded. However, this isn't always true.

"I filled out my FAFSA last February and got nothing because my mom makes too much according to them [FAFSA]," Andrea Pugh, a freshman psychology major, said.

As frustrating as figuring out how to finance a college education is, there is some hope. Students have the opportunity to be awarded for filling out the FAFSA promptly.

The NSU Office of Financial Aid in Roy Hall is offering a $200 scholarship to one student who completes the FAFSA by Feb. 28. The names of all students who meet this deadline will go into a drawing, and one will be chosen as the winner, Christine Dorribo, a Financial Aid loan officer, said.

The Office of Financial Aid is offering two free events this week for students. The first, "Help Completing the FAFSA," will take place Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Kyser room 243. Financial Aid will hold a second event, "Louisiana College Goal Sunday," in the President's Room in the Friedman Student Union, according Dorribo said.

One Web site, Getreadyforcollege.org, provides several tips on how to file the FAFSA. The site suggests applying for a pin number and submitting the FAFSA as early as possible after Jan. 1 to receive some sort of institutional aid.

The site also advises students to file taxes before beginning the FAFSA and avoid leaving a monetary value blank. Missing signatures can delay a FAFSA from being processed, and the form requires a signature from at least one parent whose information is claimed on the form.

All of these tips are necessary for a speedy and accurate completion of the FAFSA. The deadline for the 2009-2010 FAFSA Web application is June 30, 2010.

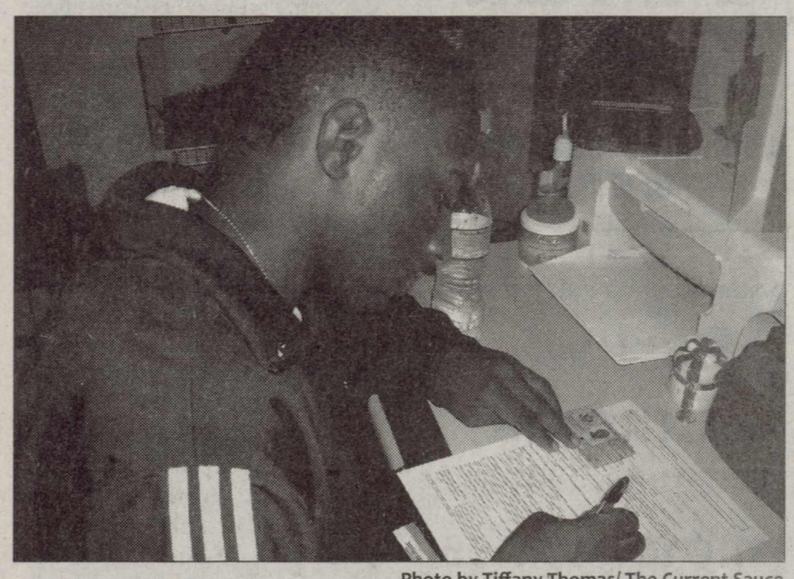


Photo by Tiffany Thomas/ The Current Sauce

Demarcus Horton, freshman industrial engineering technology major, fills out his FAFSA.

Tips on filing the FAFSA:

1. Apply for a pin.
2. Submit the FAFSA as early as possible after Jan. 1.
3. File taxes before beginning filling out the FAFSA.
4. Never leave a monetary value blank. If unsure, enter a zero amount.
5. Sign the FAFSA with at least one parent whose information is claimed on the form.

Varnado Hall vacated once again

More than 100 NSU students find new home

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

Varnado Hall is now empty after housing approximately 146 students who wanted to live on campus but could not find room at any of the privatized on-campus housing.

Students who turned their housing forms in late were temporarily placed in the dormitory, which was being used as overflow housing until spare rooms could be found at the University Columns, University Place Phase I or University Place Phase II.

"A flood of people in July decided they wanted to [live on campus], but hadn't signed their leases," Chris Maggio, dean of students, said.

Maggio explained that Varnado, which was the only traditional housing facility available, was used much longer than originally intended.

Throughout the semester the students were being moved from the temporary housing to the newer facilities as rooms became available.

Because many students in University Place and the University Columns either did not show up on move-in day or changed their minds at the last minute, moving began almost immediately.

"As soon as we had a bed open up we would move them over from Varnado based on the date they submitted their lease," Stephanie Dyjack, Campus Living Villages director of housing, said.

While living in Varnado Hall, the students paid the cost of a double-occupancy suite at University Place.

If the residence hall had been open for any students who wanted to live on campus, the rates would have been the same, Maggio said.

"It was only [about] $75 cheaper the last year it was open," Maggio said. "They've been inching those rates up."

Of the nearly 150 students who moved into the dormitory last semester, about 60 of them transitioned to the University Columns and about 80 to University Place.

"We tried to honor their preference, but some were willing to take whatever came open first," Dyjack said. "I think the majority of the ones from Varnado wanted to go to the Columns, but we couldn't accommodate them all so they went over the University Place."

Even though the students did not get the on-campus living experience they were anticipating, some found their time in the dormitory to be enjoyable.

Coty Vertin, junior criminal justice and biology major, moved out of the dormitory and into University Place I in early December.

"I definitely loved living in Varnado," Vertin said. "It was what living on a college campus should be."

Vertin, who lived in Varnado Hall for three semesters, said that she found that living in the dormitory was a much more enjoyable experience than living in University Place.

She explained that the newer housing is just like living in a regular apartment.

"I feel as if I may as well live off campus," Vertin said.

The end of the spring 2009 semester, only a maximum of 55 students were still residing at the dormitory.

University officials do not expect to have an overflow of students next semester. Therefore, no plans of accommodation have been made, Dyjack said.

"What we will do is watch our numbers… and if the incoming class is really large, [and] if we retain a lot of students from the freshman and sophomore year and so on, we will have to make that call," Dyjack said.

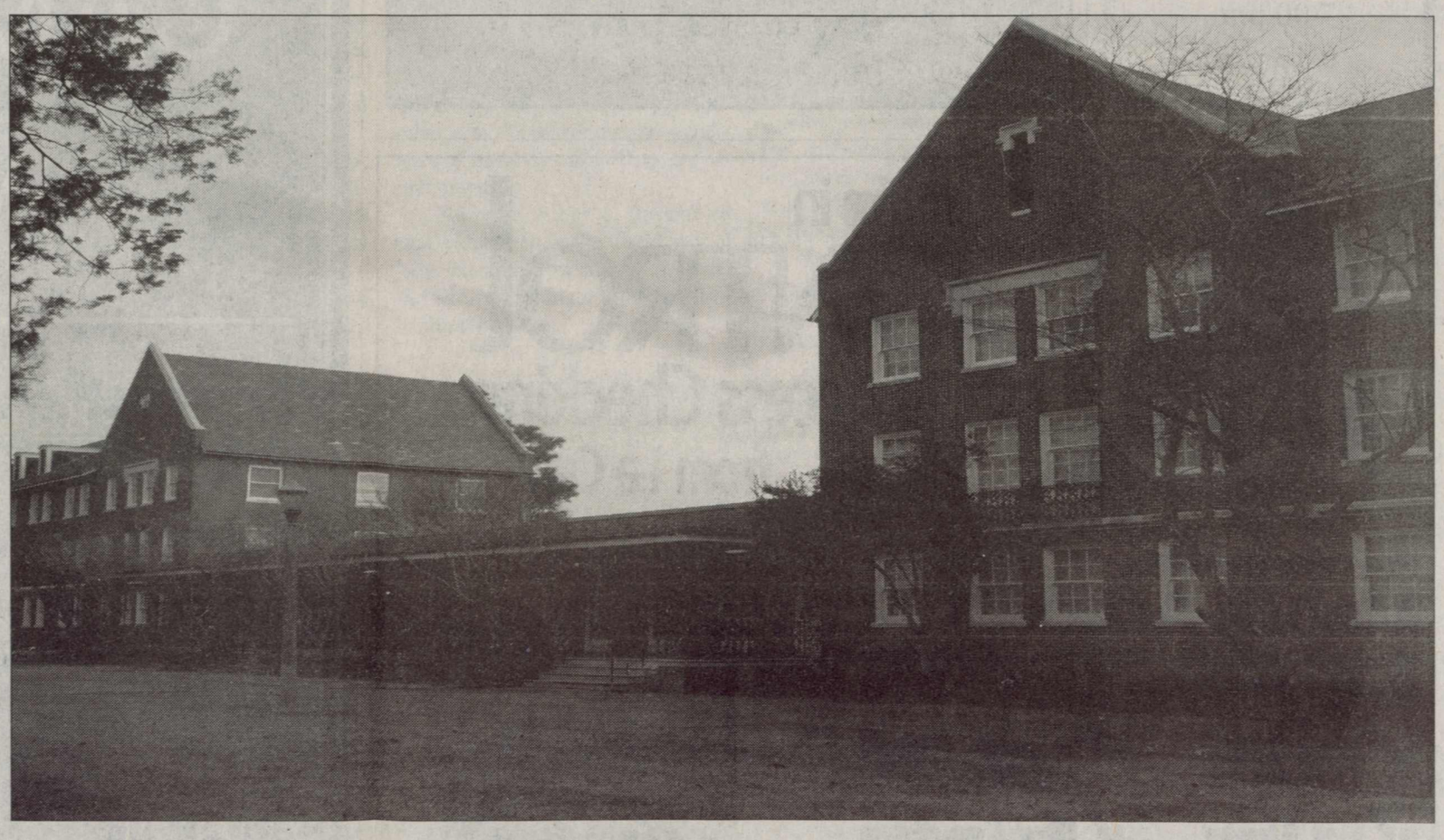


Photo by Bethany Frank/ The Current Sauce

Last semester, 146 students moved out of Varnado Hall. Many relocated to either University Columns or University Place.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu

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Chinese Restaurants in U.S.A.

Parkway Cinema
1011 Keyser Ave.
movie times

"Coraline"
Rated PG
6:45 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

"He's Just Not That Into You"
Rated PG-13
6:45 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

"Push"
Rated PG-13
6:45 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

"Taken"
Rated PG-13
7:00 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

"The Pink Panther 2"
Rated PG
7:00 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

"The Uninvited"
Rated PG-13
7:00 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

New stimulus plan may ease pain of budget cuts

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief

In the midst of the current economic recession and budget cuts, some propose that President Barack Obama's federal stimulus plan could benefit Louisiana, the University of Louisiana System and other local institutions of higher education..

NSU and the entire UL System have been experiencing changes since December when the Louisiana Board of Regents announced a $121 million budget cut of all higher education, which meant a cut of $2.1 million at NSU.

According to a Feb. 6 article on the University of Louisiana System Web site, the UL System is still reviewing and refining plans in response to the budget cuts for each of the system's seven universities, including NSU.

The UL System article stated that the system-wide impact of potential budget reductions as high as 28 percent for the 2009-2010 school year would be a $116.4 million reduction to the operating budget.

Such a blow would result in the loss of about 60 academic programs, 1,500 jobs, 3,000 furloughed employees and a drop in enrollment of about 12,000 students system-wide, according to the article titled "UL System Preliminary Impact of Budget Reductions."

The specific impact on NSU has not yet been determined, though.

"At this point, the FY 2010 budget situation is under discussion in Baton Rouge," NSU President Randall J. Webb said.

However, Obama's stimulus plan could be of assistance to NSU and higher education across the country.

The federal stimulus plan has been passed in both the House of Representatives and the Senate with differing price tags – $819 billion in the House's version and $838 billion in the Senate's, according to CNN.com.

A Feb. 4 article stated that the plan had Louisiana jobs and schools in mind. The article "Stimulus Plan Includes Money for La. Jobs, Schools" was posted on the New Orleans news channel's Web site WDSU.com.

The article stated that federal officials had said the plan was estimated to create or save 52,700 jobs in the state. The plan also included enough funding to modernize at least 215 schools in Louisiana, according to the same WDSU.com article.

The online U.S. higher education news source "Inside Higher Ed" provided a rough estimate of the possible impact of the stimulus plan on college students. "Inside Higher Ed" suggested that tens of billions of dollars could flow from the stimulus plan to colleges and their students across the nation, according to a Jan. 16 article on insidehighered.com.

According to this group's estimate, the national government would devote about $30 billion of financial support to students. This amount would include $15.6 billion to increase the maximum Pell Grant by $500 across the nation, which would aid about 80,000 more students, according to "Inside Higher Ed."

This $30 billion would also include a $2,000 increase in federal limits on unsubsidized loans, which are federally guaranteed loans that are not based on financial need, according to StaffordLoan.com.

The "Inside Higher Ed" Jan. 16 article also stated that language in the stimulus plan had said that state governors are supposed to "provide the amount of funds to public institutions in the state that is needed to restore state support for postsecondary education to the fiscal year 2008."

That funding would be part of $39 billion set aside for state governments to restore budget cuts to education programs from elementary to higher education, according to the same article.

This estimate was based on the stimulus plan proposed by the House Appropriations Committee. The article also stated that about $8 billion would be added to fund research and researchers in higher education and another $8 billion on infrastructure.

Want to get involved with The Current Sauce? Attend our meetings every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in 227 Kyser Hall

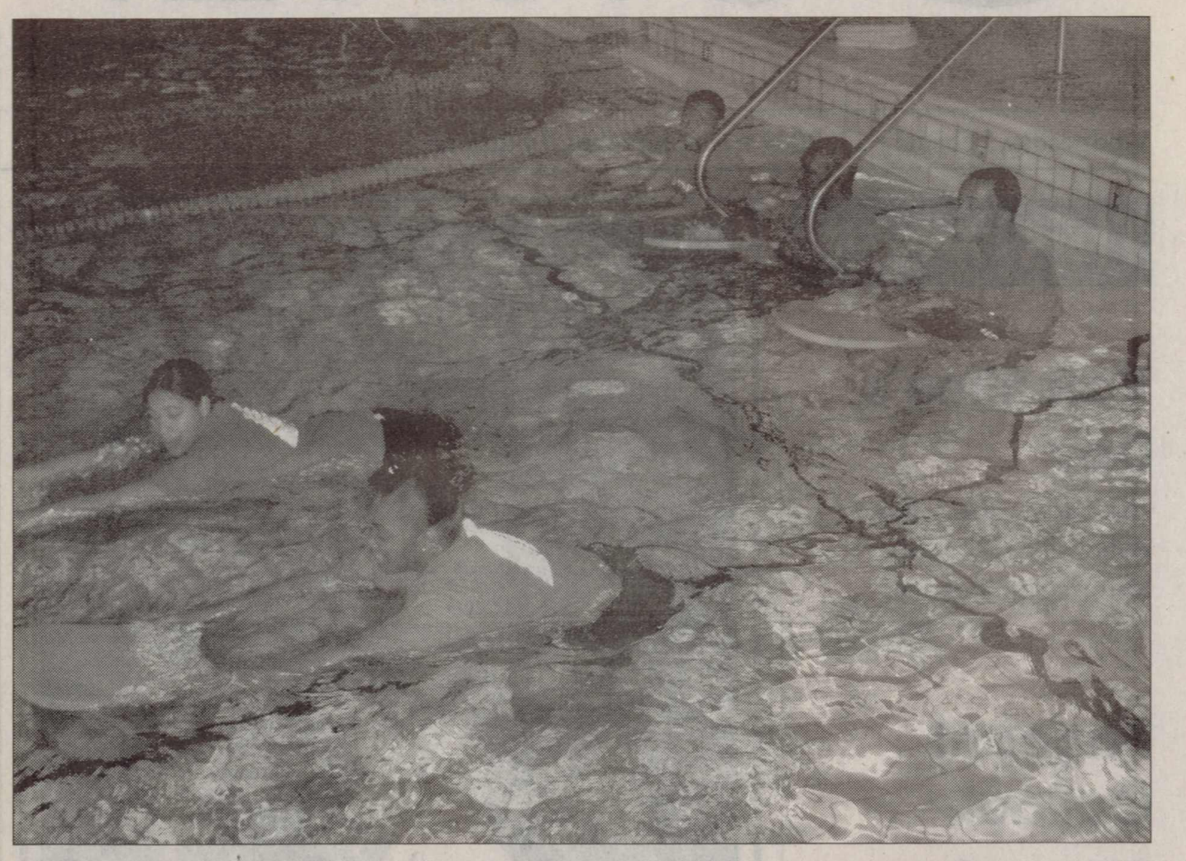


Photo by Antoinette Selby/ The Current Sauce
The NSU Army ROTC cadets use the pool in Nesom Natatorium to conduct their swim test.

Glass leaves pool empty

David Royal
News Editor

The pool in the Nesom Natatorium was closed to swimmers for most of last week after pieces of a light bulb fell in the water.

Cindy Davis, the aquatics director of the Natatorium, said glass fell in the pool last Tuesday, Feb. 3, while a maintenance man was attempting to change a light bulb near the pool. No swimmers were in the pool at the time.

Davis said she and her staff were not exactly sure how much glass actually fell in the pool, and for the safety of the swimmers the pool had to be drained and refilled.

"You could see the shards of glass glistening and floating in the pool, and with any amount of glass you have to think about the safety of swimmers," Davis said.

Davis explained that although the lifeguards at the Natatorium assisted, the NSU Physical Plant was in charge of the operation.

The team first began draining the pool last Tuesday and began power washing, mopping and sweeping out the pool the next day, Davis said. They began refilling the pool and mixing the chemicals on Feb. 5.

Davis estimated that the pool requires between 100,000 and 200,000 gallons of water.

Davis said the lifeguards and Physical Plant team worked efficiently and completed the work quickly.

The pool reopened on Monday.

Director of the Physical Plant Chuck Bourg said he was unsure of how much the process cost, but he said confidently that the costs were "minimal."

Davis said the temporary closing of the pool affected the water exercise class that she teaches, but said some of her other classes did not require use of the pool.

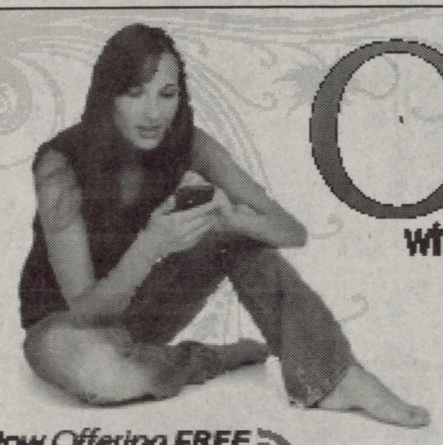
She added that members of the community use the pool, and the NSU Army ROTC also relies on the availability of the pool to conduct their Combat Water Survival Test and swim test.

FREE TUTORING CAMPUS-WIDE
ACADEMIC CENTER

8:00 am - 8:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Friday
239 KYSER HALL

5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday
208 WRAC

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sunday – Thursday
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Tori Ladd
Life Editor
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Holiday history hits home

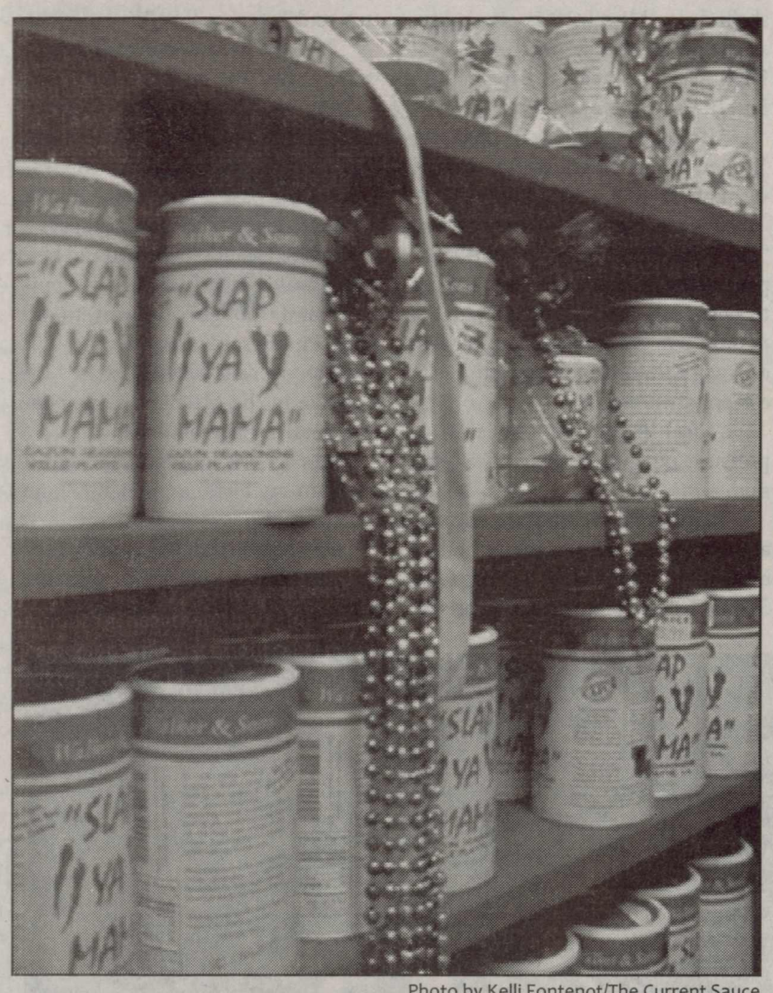


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

In celebration of Mardi Gras, many people consume King Cake and southern foods with Cajun seasoning.

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

It's the time of year when students can forget about what they may be studying in their daily school schedule and let the good times roll.

The NSU Student Activities Board plans to hold a Mardi Gras Masquerade in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom Tuesday night.

With the two-day Mardi Gras break right around the corner, some students anticipate the arrival of the holiday where they can let loose. The holiday, though, is more than just an excuse to have a parade.

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, stems from the Catholic season of Lent. The holiday traditions we celebrate today can be traced back to "The Big Easy," New Orleans, according to mardigrasunmasked.com.

In 1703, the settlement of Fort Louis de la Mobile celebrated the first Mardi Gras in Louisiana.

The second of many Mardi Gras "krewes" was formed – the Twelfth Night Reveler's – with it being the first to have beads or "throws."

King of Carnival, Rex, appeared in 1872 during the first daytime parade. He also introduced the Mardi Gras colors, purple, green and gold; the Mardi Gras song and the Mardi Gras flag that same year, according to mardigrasunmasked.com.

The 1892 Rex Parade theme "Symbolism of Colors" gave meaning to the colors: purple represents justice; green, faith; and gold, power.

According to the same Web site, Mardi Gras colors are said to be the influence behind the choice of school colors for Louisiana State University and Tulane University, according to mardigrasunmasked.com.

When LSU decided its colors, shops in New Orleans had stocked up on purple, green and gold material for the Mardi Gras season.

LSU chose purple and gold ,while Tulane settled for the remaining color, green.

In 1875, Gov. Henry Clay Warmoth of Louisiana signed the "Mardi Gras Act," which made Mardi Gras a legal holiday in Louisiana, according to mardigrasunmasked.com.

A popular custom during Mardi Gras is the baking of a special cake in honor of the Biblical three kings called "A King's Cake."

In the Christian faith, the coming of the wise men bearing gifts to Christ is celebrated on the twelfth day after Christmas and is referred to as the Feast of the Epiphany, according to Religionfacts.com.

The tradition of having King Cake parties has evolved over time.

Inside every cake is a tiny baby, that is usually plastic, but may be porcelain or gold in some cakes.

The person who receives the slice of cake with the baby is often asked to continue the festivities by hosting the next King Cake party.

Students will participate in a King Cake bake-off at the SAB Mardi Gras Masquerade.

The original King Cake was a simple ring of dough with little decoration. Now, the cakes are decorated with icing and sugar crystals in traditional Mardi Gras colors and are sometimes stuffed with cream cheese or fruit fillings.

As students count down the hours and days until the most anticipated Louisiana holiday, homework and textbooks seem to be put aside for beads and party masks.

Laissez les bons temps rouler.

Black History Month Facts

On this day...

Dr. Robert Clifton Weaver was sworn in as Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency on this date in 1961. To date, no other black person held a higher ranking federal position.

Clifford Alexander Jr. became the first black Secretary of the Army on this date in 1977.

Barbara C. Harris was ordained the first woman bishop in the Episcopal Church on this date in 1989.

Mike Tyson was knocked out by James "Buster" Douglas on this date in 1990 in the 10th round of a Tokyo, Japan, match. This was one of the greatest upsets in boxing's history.

Nelson R. Mandela, South Africa's black nationalist leader, was released from prison after 27 years on this date in 1990. Four years after his release, he was elected president of South Africa.

Courtesy of www.yenoba.com.

Valentine's Day more than merchandise

Chad Bouchie
Sauce Reporter

For some people, Valentine's Day is a good excuse to put a smile on a loved one's face and in his or her heart.

Many men, though, view Feb. 14 as an egregious holiday.

They tend to make up what they deem "witty" arguments to the unromantic aspect, such as it being a chance for Hallmark and other companies to make a massive dime from the economy.

"It's mostly a ploy by big corporations to get you to buy their merchandise," freshman Elie James said. "A gift from the heart, like something homemade, means so much more."

Despite what pessimists and nonconformists say, taking part in any attribution of putting down the holiday could make someone's day worse.

The stereotype forces a certain amount of negativity into the mind of a person who just might have been looking forward to taking advantage of the opportunity.

After all, it only comes once a year.

Many in today's society have, at some point, had their curiosity piqued on the subject of Valentine's enough to do some research.

This might, in turn, have led them to the realization that the Christians stole the holiday.

However, there is more to it than that.

In one report of Valentine's Day's origins, About.com states that on Feb. 14, Romans celebrated a holiday honoring Juno Fructifier, who reigned over Roman gods and goddesses.

In one fertility ritual, women wrote their names down and put them in a box.

Men would draw names from the box and form couples with the women whose names they chose. This randomly assigned partnership would sometimes last for an entire year.

The day after Valentine's Day was also a significant celebration.

"On February 15, Romans celebrated Luperaclia, honoring Faunus, god of fertility," according to About.com.

Observing the holiday, men entered a grotto dedicated to Lupercal, the wolf god.

Each year, the men would sacrifice a goat, skin it and wear its skin. The men also hit women with small whips as part of their tradition, which was originally intended to increase fertility.

Roman society thought men – being of a baser nature than women – loved violence. The men enjoyed carousing and fighting, but women, who were considered more important than the men, chose to celebrate passion and love instead.

The day after Valentine's Day was once dedicated to the male ego, male affinity for blood and the releasing of emotion through physical incurrence.

Junior general studies major Adam Bouchie said that the traditions seem a bit ridiculous, but in his opinion, Valentine's Day warrants at least a little attention.

"No doubt the whips were a bad idea, but if you're in a committed relationship, at least buy her some flowers. Just don't overdo it—it's not Christmas," Bouchie said.

After all, if a woman loves a good foot massage and a box of chocolates followed by a true expression of love from the subject of her fondness, then maybe someone who has enough respect for his lover will get something in return.

Freshman art major Travis Brazil said that honoring the tradition of Valentine's Day is fine as long as it is a two-way street.

"The celebration should be an obligation to both genders in a relationship," Brazil said. "Make time to spend together, like going to a nice dinner and then somewhere special."

Some men may not expect anything in return from their signficant other with the exception of the audience of those to whom they are expressing it.

However, if they go through all that trouble to make their special lady friend happy, maybe the next day something mighty fine could be in store for them.

Student organization presents new networking opportunities

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

The Student Alumni Association is a newly formed organization on campus that's ready to let NSU students know what it's all about.

Northwestern State's Student Alumni Association (SAA) will be holding an informational in the Russell Hall Natchitoches Room at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17.

"It's an organization that is going to allow networking between alumni and students," said SAA Coordinator Lauren Michel. "Students will be able to stay connected to school and be true alumni."

Because the organization is new, some students said they aren't attending the informational and don't care to give it a chance.

"I don't know what it is, and I don't have the time to find out," Kirbye Adkins, freshman music education major, said.

However, Michel does expect a good turnout.

The organization's Facebook group, Student Alumni Association at NSU, has 60 confirmed invitations.

"We're hoping to get at least 60 people there," Michel said. "There are about 60-70 maybes."

Michel said she has been doing her best to get the SAA out there and to let people know about the informational.

"I've been sending out e-mails through student messenger and messages on Facebook," Michel said. "It's on the TVs around campus, and fliers are up."

Michel has also talked to several student groups and even said she spoke at a Gavel Club meeting.

At the informational, students can find out more about the association, including the benefits of being a member.

Prizes donated by the alumni and athletic department will be given out as well.

Michel said the SAA plans to recruit as many members as possible and attract a diverse group of students.

A member of the association can be a full- or part-time student, a student from another NSU campus or an online student.

For sophomore journalism major, Chasity Taylor, whether she's going or not is still up in the air.

"Depending on how my schedule looks, probably," Taylor said.

However, Michel has a very optimistic view on how things will go with the SAA this year.

"Hopefully it'll be the most active organization on campus," Michel said.

Membership in the SAA will allow students to attend events only alumni can attend.

They'll also have privileges such as meeting the cast when attending theatre productions and tailgating at athletic events.

Tips to make it a Mardi Gras to remember:

- Plan ahead and don't wait too late to make reservations - Hotels are often completely booked by December, so reserve your room ahead of time. Decide early if you want to experience New Orleans during this time of year and start your planning before it's too late.
- Plan your transportation – With overcrowded streets and parades, transportation around New Orleans can seem impossible. Try public transportation or even walking. If you do drive, watch out for parking tickets. You don't want a piece of paper on your windshield to ruin your whole trip.
- Get there early – Parade crowds can swell in no time, and finding a good spot along the route may be impossible.
- Respect the police and the legal drinking age – If an officer asks you to do something, just cooperate. Don't get too intoxicated and obnoxious in public. Getting arrested is the easiest and quickest way to ruin your entire trip.
- "Throw me something, Mister" – While at the parades, catch Mardi Gras "throws," such as beads, cups and medallions. However, don't tackle people for the coolest beads, run out into the street between floats or decide to join the marching band at the last minute.
- Set up a meeting place – If you are traveling with a group of friends or family, chances are you will most likely get separated in large crowds. Design 'e a meeting area in case you get separated so you can regroup and continue with your plans.
- Have Fun...Dress Up – Wear Mardi Gras colors (purple, green and gold) and show your spirit. Find a wacky mask or crazy hat to wear during your trip. You're sure to draw some attention with your festive attire.

Fast Fact

Louisiana ranks 19th in the nation for adequacy of prenatal care, which is available to 78.6 percent of pregnant women.
Courtesy of Hopenetworks.org

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February 11, 2009

LOB pageant winner poised for next competition



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Mandi Ridgdell crowns Brittany Pippin as the 2009 Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet Saturday.

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Brittany Pippin, a freshman psychology major, said she never expected to win the title of Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet.

"When they called my name, I just couldn't believe it," she said. "I still don't think it has really set in yet. It's such an honor."

Mandi Ridgdell, the 2008 Lady of the Bracelet, crowned Pippin Saturday at the 2009 LOB pageant in A. A. Fredericks auditorium. Pippin will receive a full scholarship to Northwestern State and will represent the university at the Miss Louisiana pageant in Monroe this spring.

Ten NSU students competed in the LOB pageant this year. Among them were sophomore theatre major Phylicia Felix, senior journalism major Bethany Frank, and freshman hospitality, management and tourism major Melanie Kay.

Contestants voted for Sara Mayeux as Miss Congeniality for the second year in a row. Mayeux, a junior liberal arts major with a concentration in scientific inquiry, has competed in the pageant for three years.

Jessica Lopez impressed the judges with an aria and won both the talent competition and a runner-up award.

Sophomore hospitality, management and tourism major Halli Hickman won the swimsuit competition. Freshman business administration and family consumer sciences major Jordan McLamore was named a runner-up.

Junior liberal arts major Shanice Major, who riled up the crowd with her energetic performance of the song "Last Dance," placed as the third runner-up.

Sophomore music education major Katie Stockton won fourth runner-up. Stockton sang "The Man That Got Away" as her talent and cited Judy Garland as one of her role models during the interview portion of the pageant. When Garland auditioned for her famous role as Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," she was told she was too "heavy" for the part. Stockton said Garland's determination to overcome that challenge inspired her.

Aside from the contestants' performances, LOB showcased the talents of performing arts groups and members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. Each ensemble represented an era in history.

Associate Professor of Music Galindo Rodriguez directed the University Jazz Orchestra, which played during the pageant. NSU alumnus Sherman Desselle joined the Jazz Orchestra for a rousing performance of "I Feel Good" by James Brown to represent the '70s.

Donald Jones Jr., a senior theatre major with a concentration in dance and musical theatre, choreographed a dance to "It's A Man's World," and the audience responded with enthusiasm. Austin Babin, Ford Haueser, Dustin Gaspard, Zach Judge, Joe Hamilton, Jacob Starks, Corwin Barnes, Casey Bozenski and Julian Anderson were the "LOB Dancers." The Demon Dazzlers also danced to "Girls Just Want to Have Fun."

During the pageant, a few contestants stumbled through their on-stage interview questions, but they had the support of a large audience that included many representatives of Phi Mu sorority.

Pippin, a Phi Mu, won the eveningwear and Liz Carroll People's Choice competitions at the pageant as well as the Miss Northwestern title. She said one of the first things she'll do as Miss LOB is give a presentation to the students at Forest High School – her alma mater – in Forest, La.

"It's a tiny little town," she said. "If you blink when you're driving through it, you'll miss it."

She plans to introduce people to "Love the Skin You're In," the campaign she chose as her platform for the pageant. Pippin said the goal is to raise awareness of eating disorders and work toward improving the self-esteem of women.

"I feel like society puts a lot of pressure on girls to stay thin," she said.

Pippin said she wants to encourage women to embrace their physical beauty no matter what society says. She said she is not a size zero or size two, and "never will be."

"I don't consider myself a very thin person," she said.

Pippin holds another pageant title – Miss West Carroll – and has competed in pageants since she was 12. For the past three years, she has attended the Miss Louisiana pageant, where one familiar face inspired her.

"I watched Mandi at Miss Louisiana and thought, 'I want to do that,'" Pippin said.

Pippin said she is excited to compete in the Miss Louisiana pageant herself this year.

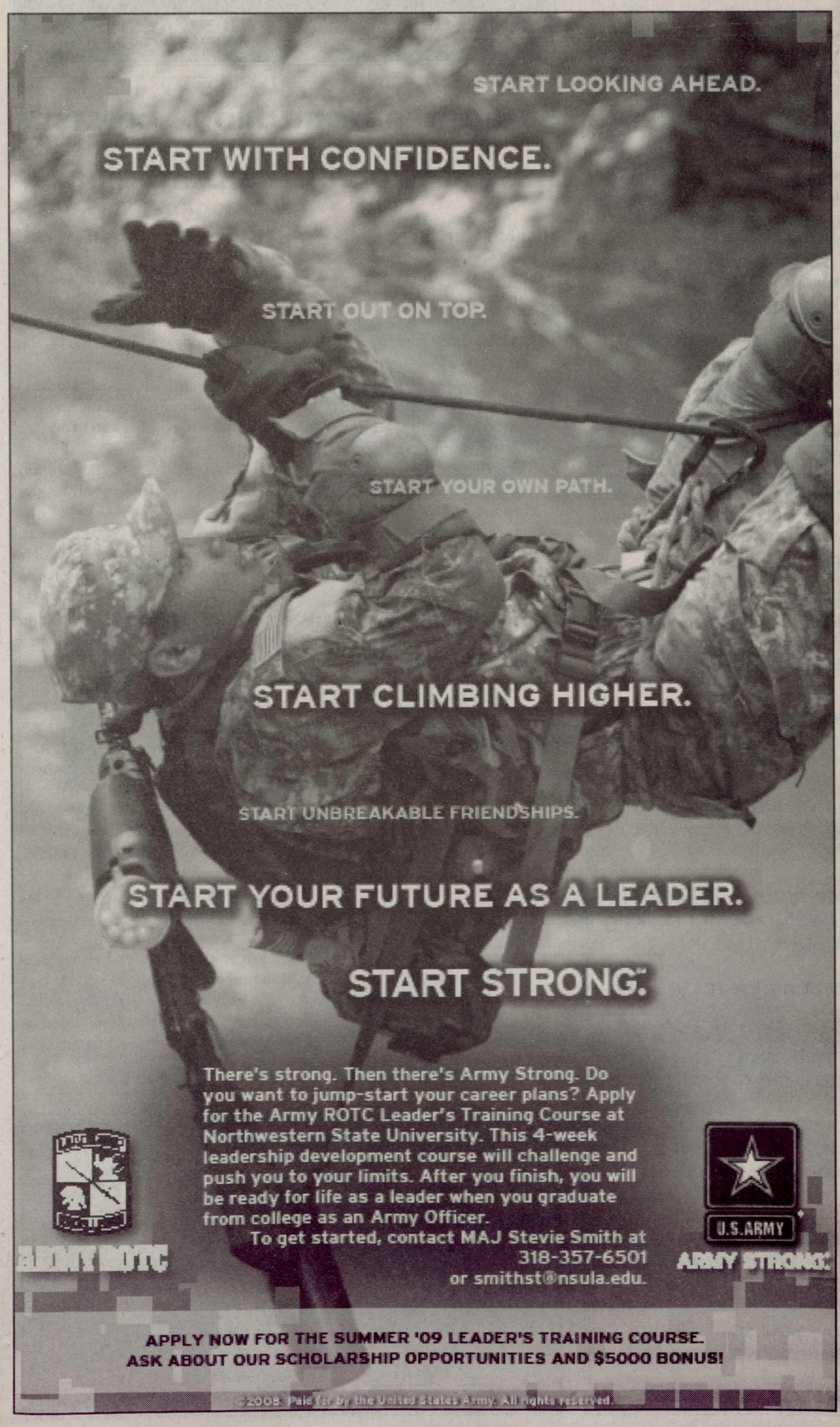
"It's a week-long process, and it starts on my birthday, which is June 15," she said.

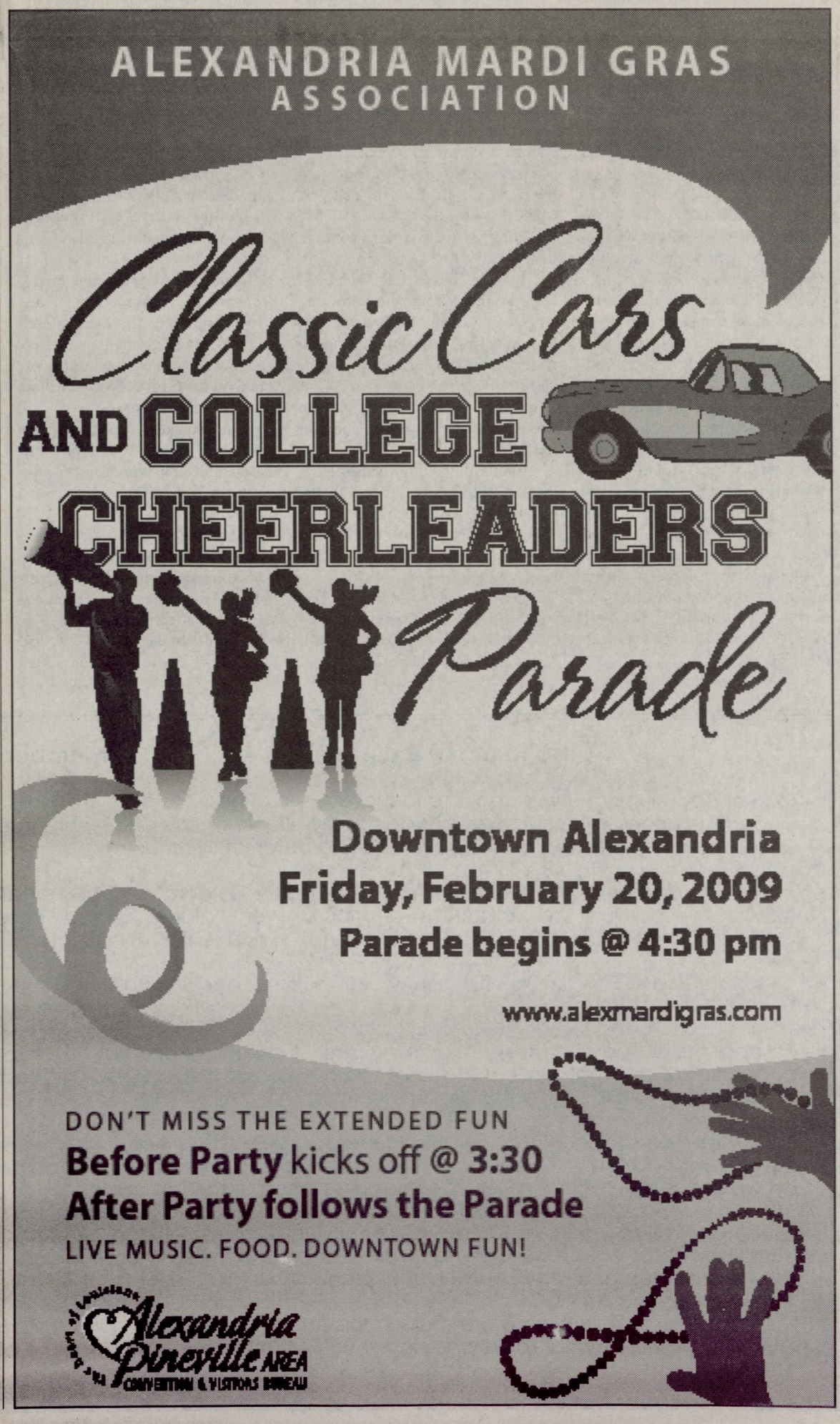
For her birthday this year, Pippin will have the chance to compete at the Miss Louisiana pageant.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

From left to right: The 2009 Miss Lady of the Bracelet and runners-up are Shanice Major, Jordan McLamore, Brittany Pippin, Jessica Lopez and Katie Stockton.





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February 11, 2009

OPINIONS 5

Stimulated student speaks against bill

Chad Bouchie
Guest Columnist



Our new president, Barack Obama, became extremelypopular during this year's election when he vaguely described a "stimulus package" – something which just so happened to sweep most Americans off their feet.

He had planned on presenting it before Congress to pull the United States out of its massive debt and, therefore, economic instability.

This included reducing mortgage rates, cutting taxes, backing STD research, smoking cessation and infrastructure-inclining programs (like mass-transit and water preoccupations), as well as tremendous government support of Medicaid and a tax cut for every specific individual of $500 on the spot ($1,000 per couple).

However, a recent turn of events proves the civil unrest in the Cabinet and Congress itself that realists have suspected would occur since before the election's results.

The smoking and STD plans have already been rejected from the draft with the excuse that democrats wish to kick the expenses over to the improvement of the country itself, rather than the people who live in it.

The debate concerns whether the bill will actually strengthen the economy or waste enough time for the theoretical 'last-ditch' effort to fail so that the people will still trust those in charge when they fudge us over, assuming they did all they could.

Now, knowing that the current progression of mediation betwixt the two parties is going almost nowhere, here's the kicker: even though they can't decide on what is most important to the nation as a whole, the degree of cost is already up to a shocking $900 billion.

Something tells me we're going to be kissing a whole lot of Donald Trump that we don't want to see in exchange for a loan pretty soon.

It seems like he and Bill Gates are going to have some saliva-polished rumps by the time the U.S. of A. gets back to where we want it.

OK, if the people don't mind, I am going to do a temporary universe-swap right about now and put myself in the shoes of a Quaker.

For those of you who don't recognize the capitalized word I just threw out there, the Quakers are people of a very fair nature. I choose to use the word fair because we are of the unbiased opinion that everyone is equal, and to treat them any other way is unconscionable. Having said that, I want to announce something that is getting under my skin – one of Obama's main declarations in the first draft of his proposal was a $75 million anti-smoking regime, and he smokes himself?

A fishy smell just assailed my nostrils, as I hope it did yours. I like the guy as a person, as I am sure the rest of you do – he has quite an aptitude for charisma.

However, no matter how much I like him, he makes me feel like he's spoon-feeding me what he calls Corn Flakes when I can read for myself that the box says Cocoa Puffs.

Looking at it from a forgiving standpoint, I can pass over the fact that everything is not as it should be. The problem is that maybe the rest of America might not be able to move on so quickly. The Senate is working on passing a $70 billion investment in the alternative minimum tax that will ensure an average of about 24 million possible taxpayers not being buried by what could turn into a colossal catastrophe.

Sounds beautiful, right? What you have to understand is that the AMT was established in 1970 to designate a basis of equality in American households.

This is to say that even the wealthy would, after its birth, be subject to paying even a minute dividend come tax season so that none would be exempt. It has even become an integral part of Federal law and financial cooperation amongst the people; the problem lies within the simple fact that it was set to a point which was never really meant to be adjusted for inflation, which is essentially involving almost everything in today's economy.

Here's the kicker, though: the White House addressed the problem by commenting that it wouldn't be a significant solution as an economy boost, and that they were "virtually certain" to attend to the matter in due time.

Meaning no offense to people I know are smarter than me, but I don't live in a Virtual Reality, as I am sure the readers of this article don't. I suppose what I'm trying to relate is that here in Reality, procrastination normally produces an end result of disaster. Personally, I'd like to know what they're waiting for.

Suffice it to say that everything Obama said in his inauguration speech was true. Americans have, in the past, had to sacrifice much for the freedom we have been enjoying for decades.

We also have not had to sacrifice much in a long time, and we are, without a doubt, overdue for some hard work as a nation, as a team. He was correct in saying that we have tough times ahead, and that we will persevere – we will make it through. What he didn't tell us is where we are going to be when it's all over.

Though no one's asking what I think, I'm the Quaker writing this article, and I stand behind our president. The majority voted for him, so we're stuck with him, and we might as well make the best of it. The only thing I'm worried about is that this could be the last decision we made as a majority.

Will it prove to be a mistake?

Waiting on Congress to grant us bailout money. No comics until then. We apologize for the walls of text you're stuck with.

Comic by Joe Cunningham/The Current Sauce



Photo by Kera Simon/The Current Sauce

Staff columnist Bethany Frank applies mascara before taking the stage as a contestant in the 2009 Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet pageant.

Be Frank: Pageant perspective

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



Fifty years ago, the Potpourri created the Lady of the Bracelet pageant and the editor in chief crowned the winner. But this year the editor in chief turned the tables and tried for the crown.

I am not the girl who looks in the mirror and says, "Damn, I should be in a beauty pageant," but I am the girl who looks in the mirror and secretly wishes she could be.

Beauty is not simply found in society's supermodel. Beauty is part of every aspect of a woman: her mind, her body and her heart.

Some claim Miss America is simply a scholarship program and fear that calling it what it is, a beauty pageant, somehow demeans its purpose and the women involved.

But it is.

The four aspects of the pageant – talent, interview, swimsuit and ball gown – all center on finding the beauty in the contestant. It is about finding the beauty in her mind, body and heart.

This weekend I received the opportunity to flaunt my beauty at the Lady of the Bracelet pageant. I saw firsthand the strain placed on each contestant to magnify her beauty. Some spent hours in the gym, others spent hundreds on their hair, and yet, I spent my time in the newsroom.

We spent more than 16 hours of the week of the pageant practicing how to walk, talk and essentially meet the typical beauty standards. The pageant encouraged me to question whether I could be a beauty queen.

The scholarship program is supposed to be about finding a well-rounded woman, but so many women found themselves living off Slimfasts and other dietary substances or they spent additional hours at the gym. The women who I joined on stage are strong, gutsy and magnificent.

It takes more than brains and Slimfast to have the courage to stand in front of your peers under the spotlight in a swimsuit and heels.

Some students wake up in sweats from the "going to school naked" dream, but these women don't get the luxury of waking up. They stand up, with their asses to the jazz band, spotlights beaming, smiling at the crowd and living most students' worst nightmare while literally being judged.

Beauty pageants should be an opportunity for women to flaunt their true selves, but they end up being something completely different.

Beauty pageants inadvertently convince women they aren't good enough as themselves. They need to change. Women need to not highlight their beauty, but change their beauty to fit the needs and desires of five judges.

Sometimes a well-rounded woman is just that — round.

Women should not have to stand in front of mirrors for hours practicing how to stand or walk. They should not need to spend additional hours at the gym just to fit the typical beauty-queen standard.

But they do.

No big woman is crowned queen. No one wants to see a big woman in a bikini. At the end of the day, it is how you look that is important.

Some spend their lives trying to defy this pre-empted stereotype. They claim the scholarship program is not about strictly physical looks.

But if that were the case, then women would not feel compelled to use hairspray, duct tape and hemorrhoid ointment in ways they were never intended. Women would not spend hundreds on hair or additional hours striving to be a size zero. They wouldn't alter their opinions to best fit what is "beauty pageant" appropriate.

They could stand onstage and be themselves.

It takes a strong woman to stand in the spotlight and be judged after striving to reach an ideal beauty. It takes an incredible woman to stand in front of her peers and perform knowing it is no longer about the music or the dance. It takes a phenomenal woman to stand up after realizing she did not make top five and have the strength to attend classes and check Facebook knowing that everyone plans on saying, "You did a great job. I am so proud of you."

And it takes an even better woman to stand up the next year and do it again. Some women live their whole lives to become a beauty queen, but more often than not, their dreams of receiving the ultimate crown are crushed.

A woman does not need a crown to be beautiful, nor should she become something she isn't to receive it.

Student celebrates Singles Awareness

Richelle Stephens
Staff Columnist



I'm not a big fan of Valentine's Day, and I haven't been since the seventh grade when I gave out "Sailor Moon" and "Dragonball Z" Valentine cards.

In its place, I celebrate "Singles Awareness Day," not because I agree with those who argue that Valentine's Day has become a day of purposely calling out their being single in a condescending manner, but it personally augments my pride in being unattached.

For those who shall spend this upcoming Saturday without a "special someone," don't be ashamed. You're not the only one who is single despite the feeling that the number of romantic couples seems to spike around this time of the year anyway.

Singles, be proud of your freedom, of your options and of the fact that love isn't always candy and flowers. Remember the drama of breakups? I cannot vouch for the rest of you, but I don't need that kind of stress right now.

I also don't celebrate this "holiday" because it's the most commercialized holiday that I can think of. Even Christmas still retains some of its religious meaning. I have yet to hear of government offices and educational institutions closing for Valentine's Day. So why all of the fuss?

I can guarantee that a large number of attached males can agree with me on the point that Valentine's Day is one hell of a drain on your funds. The occasion – and all of the treats and trinkets that follow - hemorrhages more money than senior level CEOs at a "company retreat."

Go into any grocery store or pharmacy and there are at least two shelves dedicated to oversized plush dogs, boxes of chocolate that are bigger than a diva's ego and cards chock full of sentiments that are cheesier than David Caruso's movies. These things aren't necessarily the best way to tell your significant other that you love him or her, or at the very least appreciate his or hercompany.

Whatever happened to physically saying the three most dreaded words in a man's vocabulary? "I love you" is certainly not as bad as saying "my credit score is 300." There are far worse things in life than revealing your feelings, gentlemen, and I can tell you that women love to hear it, too.

If you are attached, then use this day as a reflection on the strong and oft intense emotional bond that you share with someone. Love, when practiced properly, is one of the strongest forces in your life and should not be abused.

Some of you may be wondering: Richelle, if you were in a relationship, would you still feel the same way? Absolutely.

Until they make Valentines cards of "The Office," "CSI:" or "Tim and Eric Awesome Show Great Job!" then I won't buy anything remotely connected to what has now become a purely consumer-driven occasion.

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www.thecurrentsauce.com

Andy Bullard
Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editors
February 11, 2009

Lady Demons stay in 1st

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

A 74-68 loss to the University of Texas at Arlington Saturday moves the Lady Demons to 6-2 in conference, which is still enough for a game-and-a-half lead in the Southland Conference Eastern Division.

UTA sits at the top of the Western Division with the University of Texas at San Antonio, each with a 7-1 conference mark.

In the first-place battle, sophomore guard Brooke Shepherd kept NSU in the game early, drilling three of four 3-pointers in the first half.

She finished 5-8 from beyond the arc, netting 13 points at halftime, and finished with a team-high 21.

She also pulled down nine rebounds to lead the team.

Her performances earned her the Louisiana Sports Writer Association Player of the Week Honors.

NSU trailed by nine at the half, thanks to a poor shooting performance. The Lady Demons shot 28 percent from the field, compared to the UTA's 46 percent.

During the second half, the Lady Demons found their touch, knocking down 48 percent of their field goals.

Sophomore guard Jessica McPhail scored all 12 of her points in the second half, connecting on four 3-pointers. The Lady Demons' Achilles' heel, though, was the Lady Mavericks' inside presence.

UTA's Candace Champion, who is the conference's leading scorer, powered her way through the paint and hit 10-14 field goals, scoring a game-high 22.

She led four Lady Mavericks in double figures. UTA outscored the Lady Demons 42-12 in the paint.

The Lady Demons are familiar to close games this season, as they played rival McNeese State University on Feb. 4. The Cowgirls entered the game 2-4 in conference, while the Lady Demons were 5-1.

It took an overtime to decide this game, as the Lady Demons' perfect home record was put to the test.

The Lady Demons knocked down a school-record 36 free throws in the contest, on their way to a 77-64 overtime win.

It was the 16th consecutive home win for NSU.

Senior guard Renotta Edwards drilled all 12 of her free throws, on her way to a career-high 18 points.

The Lady Demons scored 22 points in the five-minute overtime period, eclipsing their entire second half performance of 21 points.

NSU continues conference action tonight against Stephen F. Austin University at 7 p.m.

They return home Saturday to face the University of Central Arkansas at 2 p.m. for the Alumni Game.

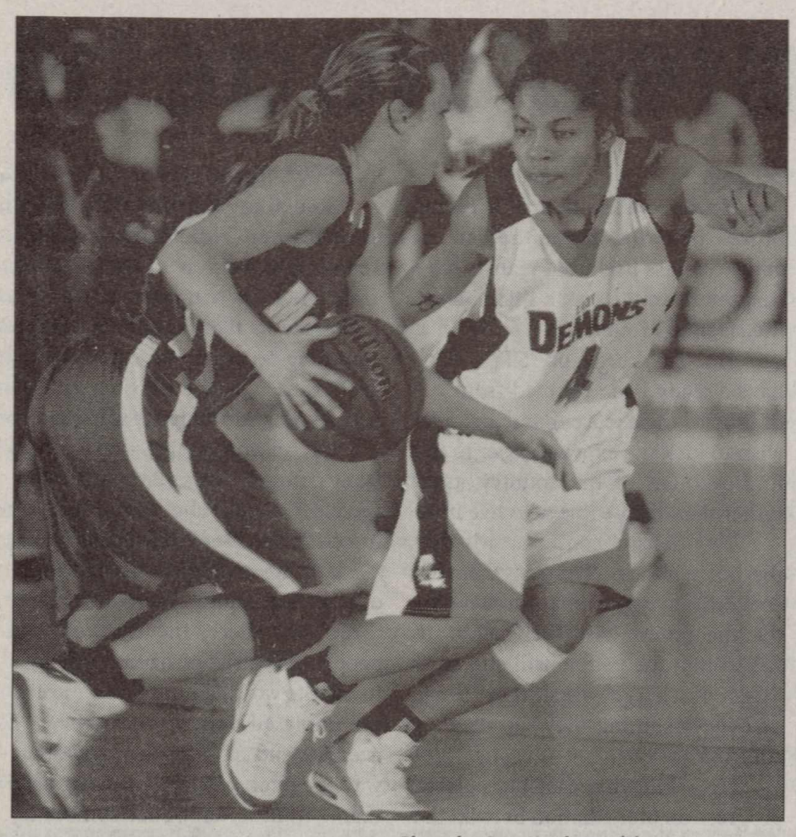


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Senior guard Renotta Edwards (4) scored a career-high 18 points against McNeese State University.

Graf guides team through game of basketball, game of life

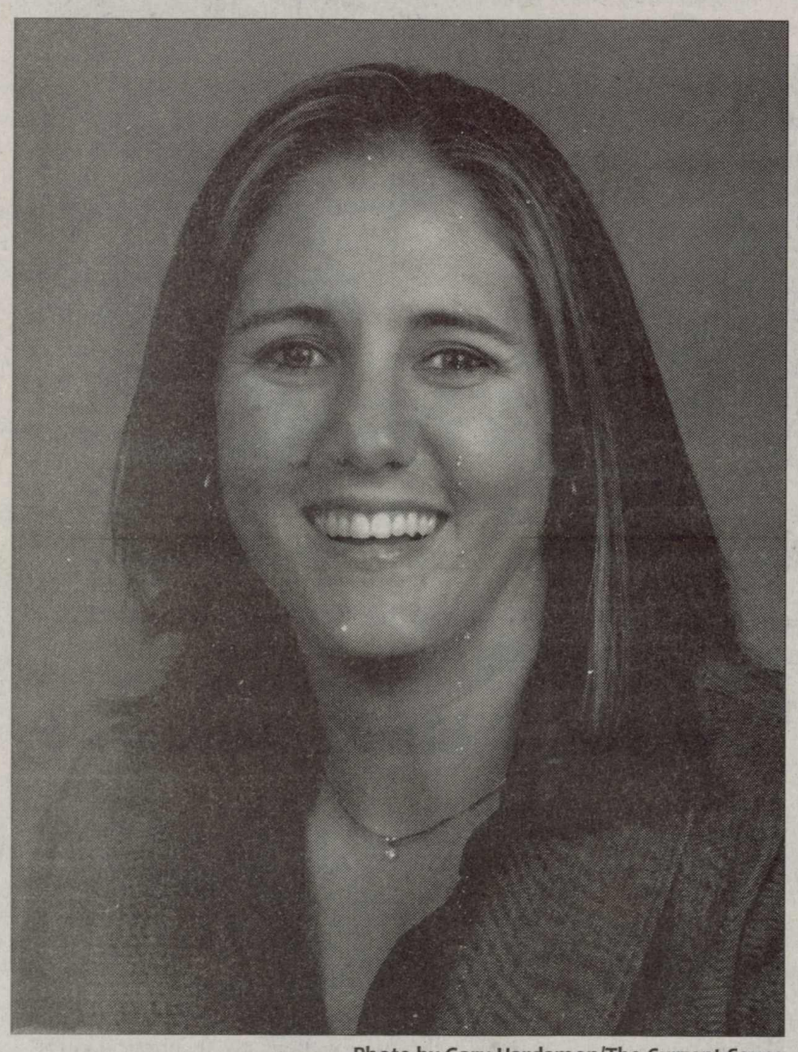


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
NSU Lady Demon Head Coach Jennifer Graf

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Jennifer Graf, Lady Demons basketball head coach, said she could only think of one thing she dislikes about coaching basketball.

"It's absolutely beautiful outside in July, and we have to sit in a gym that's about 40 degrees," she said. "I swear, it's freezing cold in there."

Whether she's relaxing on Sibley Lake or attempting to wakeboard, Graf definitely prefers being outside on sunny days.

Seeking refuge from Tuesday's rain in her office in Prather Coliseum, Graf said most of her outdoor adventures take place during the summer because she spends most of her time during the rest of the year focusing on work.

Graf, 30, is now in her fifth season as head coach for the Lady Demons. The team has played eight conference games this semester and has eight left.

In addition to coaching, she said she likes watching movies, a pastime that she said can be beneficial during the eight-hour bus rides before and after games.

On the way to Saturday's game against University of Central Arkansas, though, the girls brought a few DVDs Graf didn't enjoy.

"We watched three horror movies in a row," Graf said. "That was terrible."

Graf said she turned her head to the side for some of the more graphic scenes in the film "P2," but not every trip involves horror movies.

She added that she wants to see "He's Just Not That Into You."

Before her trip to the theater, Graf will coach the team against the University of Central Arkansas this Saturday for a "Pink Zone" game.

"Women's basketball takes a week to try to raise awareness and money for breast cancer," Graf explained. "The girls wear pink uniforms, and we try to get donations for breast cancer research."

Raising awareness is a tradition that takes place at many college campuses across the country.

Graf said some of the Lady Demons take a personal approach to Pink Zone because they have friends and family members who are battling breast cancer.

"It really hits home," she said.

Graf said the team has already raised more than $2,500 this year.

The team has also succeeded on the court this year despite misconceptions involving age.

"I have such a young team – there are a lot of freshmen and sophomores this year – but they don't play young," Graf said.

She said she views that maturity as a result of the efforts of the upperclassmen who have guided younger players on and off the court.

"You just never know how a student is going to react to this freedom that they have," Graf said. "What do you stand for? What do you want to live for? You can't just stand there and let life happen to you; you've got to find out what you want and stand up for what you believe in."

When Graf isn't coaching, she travels around the country recruiting high school basketball players, focusing heavily on attracting Louisiana's talented athletes.

"If we can get the best players in our state, that's definitely to our advantage."

Graf said that recruiting these students is a unique experience because coaches sometimes meet players as early as their sophomore year of high school.

By the time the student has graduated she has a connection with her coach that continues beyond her college years.

"In college, you just have so much growing up to do," Graf said. "You're just maturing into the person you're supposed to be, and we get to watch that, and that's the amazing part."

Demons slide down slippery slope, drop 10 of last 11

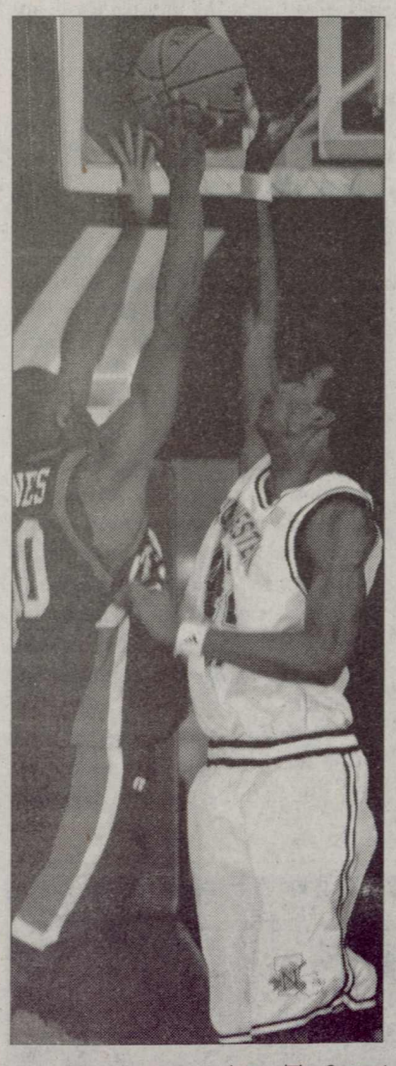


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Freshman forward William Mosley (42)

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU men's basketball team continued to slide down the slippery slope last week with losses to Southland Conference foes McNeese State and the University of Texas at Arlington.

They first traveled to Lake Charles to take on the McNeese State Cowboys.

With a good showing from the bench, especially Keithan Hancock, the Demons fell to MSU 81-75.

"We just couldn't seem to get things going in the first half, which is why we were down 48-31," senior guard Keithan Hancock said. "We really stepped it up in the second half, but we had just dug ourselves a huge hole and couldn't come back from it. That seems to be the story of our season."

Like Hancock said, the Demons were down 48-31 at halftime but came back to outscore the Cowboys 44-33 in the second half.

Hancock was one of only three Demons to reach double digits points with 17, a team-high.

Junior guards Michael McConathy and Damon Jones both scored 12 apiece. McConathy added a team-high eight assists to his stat line.

The Demons then turned to the friendly confines of Prather Coliseum, which haven't been all that friendly to the Demons who are 1-3 in conference play at home.

They hosted the reigning Southland Conference Tournament Champions, the University of Texas at Arlington Mavericks. The Mavericks came out and from the very beginning showed why they are last year's SLC Tournament champs, defeating the Demons 85-66.

"It seems to me that when we struggle, like every team does, instead of fighting through it we just seem to shut down, and that gives the other team a huge advantage," head coach Mike McConathy said.

"It's all part of being a young team. We take two steps forward and four steps back. It's something the entire team is going to have to work on."

The Demons' shooting performance was a very weak part of Saturday's game.

The Demons shot only 29.2 percent from the field and a mere 18.5 percent from behind the arc.

The only shining star for the Demons was freshman forward William Mosely, who had a double-double with 12 point and 10 rebounds.

Sophomore forward Kalem Portiere also added a team-high 13 points.

The Demons' record now stands at 9-14 overall and 1-7 in SLC play.

The Demons look to turn things around as they play host to the Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks tonight in Prather at 7 p.m.

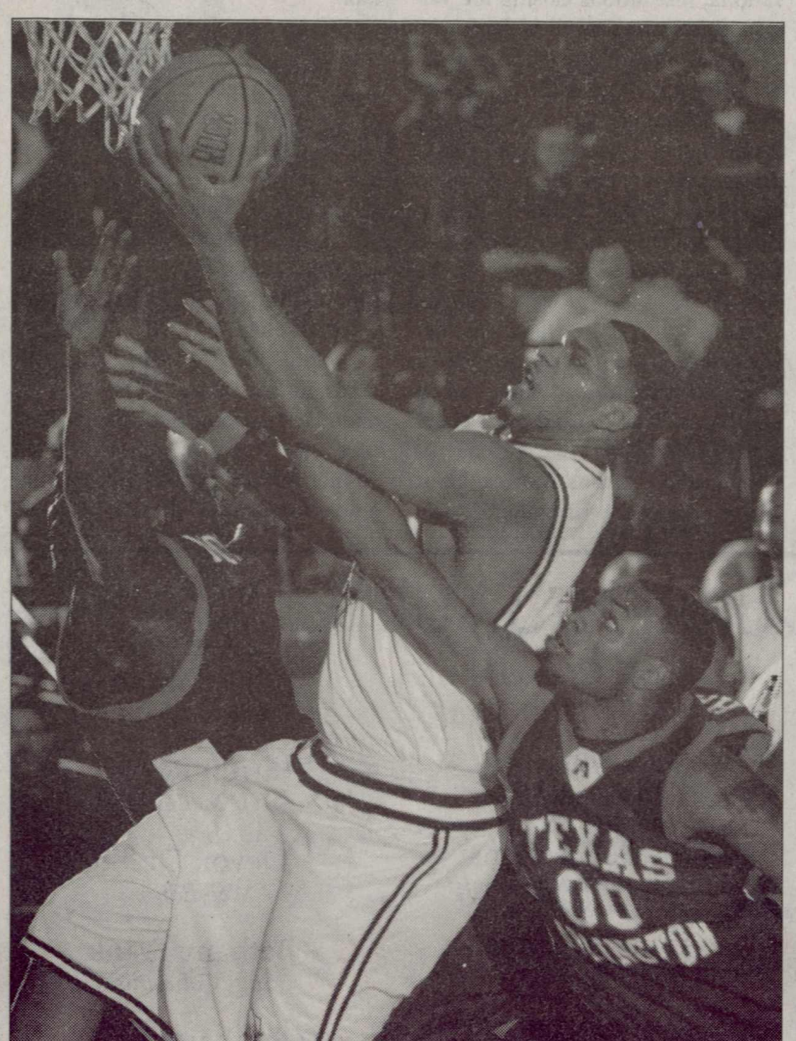


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Senior forward Kalem Porterie (31) lays the ball up, scoring two of his 13 in Saturday's loss to Texas-Arlington.

BS'in with the Bull: Steroid soapbox

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-editor



With pitchers and catchers reporting to spring training in just a little less than three days, you know what that means; it's baseball season.

I want to add that I love watching baseball, playing baseball and keeping up with baseball in general, but as far as I'm concerned a great travesty has been egregiously committed.

Steroids have been used in baseball. Now, I know what you are thinking. "What? You didn't know steroids were being used in baseball?" My answer to that is yes, I knew but until people in prominent positions were caught using them it wasn't real to me.

I mean Mark McGwire got caught using steroids. Barry Bonds finally got caught using steroids. Roger Clemens is in the process of being convicted of perjury for lying to the grand jury.

Now Alex Rodriguez has been caught – he recently confessed to using steroids in 2003.

As far as Mark McGwire goes, he was using andro, which at the time was not illegal.

Barry Bonds, it's about time he finally got caught.

I mean, your head is not supposed to grow, but his has grown into the size of a melon.

OK, maybe that is a gross overestimation, but nonetheless the man's head is huge now.

Honestly, I don't really care about Roger Clemens taking steroids because he hasn't broken any sacred records as far as baseball is concerned.

With A-Rod taking steroids, though, that greatly concerned me. I have always thought that he would go down as the greatest baseball player ever.

He passed all of the right tests. He was consistent, he never got super big and he never tested positive until now.

The main question that I have been asking myself is, if Barry Bonds and Alex Rodriguez used steroids in 2003, why is it just now being exposed to the public?

I wish I could have an answer for you, but I can't even make one up that sounds logical. So with all of this new developing information about these players I have come up with a solution to all this steroids talk.

What we should do is take those four huge players and completely mark their records and stats out of the record book.

Never let them play again and do the exact same thing for anyone else who ever has and or ever will.

You may think that it is a bit harsh, but with Commissioner Bud Selig getting the help from the U.S. government, it seems like he wants this steroids thing to stop.

So, it's time to take a great action. If this is done many people will stop taking steroids. Just so you know, I am almost off of my soapbox.

If any of these players who have been mentioned before make it into the Pro Baseball Hall of Fame before Pete Rose does, I honestly may find a sniper rifle and start picking people off until I am heard.

The very worst thing that Rose did was bet on baseball. He did that when he was the coach of the Reds and not a player.

Anyone who has more than 4,000 hits deserves to be in the HOF. To me it just doesn't make sense, but what do I know?

Now I am off of my soapbox.

This is an opinion column. Please refer to the policy on the Opinions page.

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 21

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Rethinking drugs

New RSO addresses campus drug policy.

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Red vs. Blue

Students express opposing views concerning the nation's stimulus plan.

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Rough start

Lady Demons softball team begins its season 1 - 9.

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Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Weather

Wednesday 78°/43°

Thursday 62°/35°

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Saturday 62°/31°

Sunday 56°/34°

Monday 55°/43°

Tuesday 67°/51°

City implements recycling program

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Recycling bins are appearing in yards all over Natchitoches. City officials have decided to distribute the receptacles throughout neighborhoods in an effort to "go green."

In an effort to save money in the long run for the city of Natchitoches and its residents, the city is making a few changes to the way it gets rid of garbage.

The city is starting a new recycling program designed to reduce the amount of garbage headed out to the landfills.

Mayor Wayne McCullen said the reason for the city changing its ways is strictly due to the economic downturn on the country.

Not only has the downturn affected the country, but it is now affecting the city.

"The price of gas is going up, the price for using the landfills are going up," McCullen said. "So, naturally the only thing to do is to try to keep the cost for residents as low as possible."

Another way the city is trying to cut costs is by reducing the amount of times the garbage is collected.

Before Feb. 16 the city was on a twice-a-week pickup schedule, but with the cost of gas always fluctuating, the increases in minimum wages in the past year and the recession, the city has gone down to a once-a-week trash removal.

The city also tried to cut costs by doing away with the back-door service, but McCullen said that several residents have expressed that they would love to keep the service.

It involves the garbagemen pulling the trash can away from the house, so the residents don't have to.

"The only way we could keep the back-door service was to keep costs down," Ward Waste Service owner Gabe Ward said. "So, going to a once-a-week trash pickup and recycling process will help tremendously. Without this the cost will go up more than it already has."

The price for garbage removal has increased by about $18 in the past month.

The way the city is counteracting that is by providing its residents with new blue recycling bins. These bins will be picked up on the same day as the regular trash, but instead of going out to the landfill, the reusable materials will be redirected out to recycling centers to be reused.

"This program to go green is our way to move forward," McCullen said. "Not only will it be good for the environment, but it will cut down cost on the city and most importantly the people and businesses that live in the city."

Both McCullen and Ward said the city of Natchitoches is looking for about a 20-30 percent decrease in trash headed out to the landfill.

Natchitoches officials already implemented a wood waste removal service more than two years ago.

That wood removal service is already accounting for 17 percent of the 20-30 percent decrease the city is hoping to achieve.

"Participation is a lot of it. The more that is recycled, the lower the chances of prices going up are," Ward said.

The city also hopes to get help from the students of NSU in this process, but before they bring the school in, they want to make sure it is a program that will work.

"We hope everyone buys into this program," McCullen said. "We are proud of it and our city, and we hope the residents will be too."

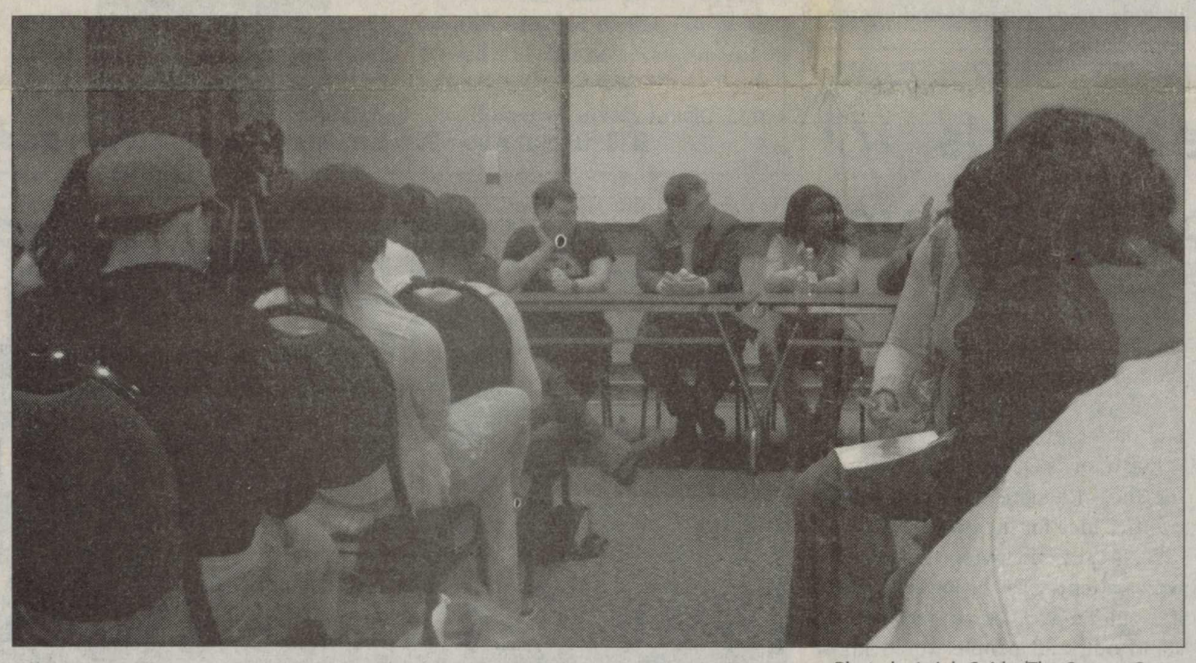


Photo by Leigh Guidry/The Current Sauce

Students talk about diversity at a forum hosted by the NSU chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Monday night.

Varied viewpoints

Forum allows students to discuss delicate matters

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hosted a two-hour long forum on diversity Monday night, and the make-up of the audience and panel reflected the forum's topic with a room full of more than 60 students and faculty of different ages, genders, religions and races.

A few topics Monday night were classes in multiculturalism, President Barack Obama and last semester's incident with the NSU chapter of Kappa Sigma, but the main theme of the discussion was that diversity is more than just black and white.

The forum allowed students and faculty to ask questions and discuss different topics dealing with diversity.

Moderator and Vice President of NAACP Ronnie Washington posed questions to the panel and the audience, and audience members stood up and asked their own questions as well.

One student who asked questions and gave feedback Monday was senior sociology major Orelia Lawdins, who said she found the meeting to be an "interesting experience."

Lawdins said the most important topic discussed at Monday's forum that the color of skin is not what's important.

"We're all human beings," she said.

Lawdins said she was impressed that so many different ethnic groups were represented, because she said some people hear NAACP and think of just one race.

Washington agreed that this is a common assumption, and he and the group want to get the message out that the NAACP is not just about black people, but about people of all colors.

"Everyone's some color," Washington said.

He said the group planned the forum during Black History Month and chose the topic of diversity for a reason.

"To me, black history is not simply about black people," Washington said. "It's about history that needs to be brought into the light."

Washington said the organization chose to put on this forum because it is time for people to be educated on issues of diversity.

He said the group plans to host more forums like Monday's on other topics.

The panel comprised NSU faculty, student leaders and Natchitoches community leaders.

The panelists invited by the university chapter of the NAACP were Student Activities Board President Roderick Wilson, graduate student and Assistant Director of New Student Programs Tara Hawthorne and Student Government Association President Cody Bourque, Speaker of the SGA Senate Tim Gattie, President of the NSU chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority Lauren Hughes, journalism professor and Assistant Athletic Director Will Broussard, Dean of Students Chris Maggio and Rev. Bobby Claiborne of Natchitoches.

The forum was part of the group's "Centennial Week" in honor of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the NAACP.

The NSU chapter of NAACP has planned events throughout the week to celebrate.

The forum took place in the Cane River Room of the Friedman Student Union from 7-9 p.m.

Cellular phones render safety system obsolete

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

The emergency call boxes that were once found around campus have been taken down due to lack of use and technical support.

Associate Director of Technical Services Tracy Brown explained that the primary reason they were removed was the company that supported the call boxes, Comarco Wireless Technologies, had been bought by another company.

"We could no longer get parts, maintenance, support on the call boxes themselves," he said.

In an emergency, the system allowed students to pick up the phone at any one of the call boxes, which would contact the local police station. Though the system was in place for about a decade, the call boxes were ineffective and rarely used.

"I can't give you any statistics of them being used because there's no records of it being used," Student Government Association President Cody Bourque said.

Caroline Courtney, a freshman pre-dental hygiene major, said she reflects Bourque's sentiment.

"I didn't even know we had [call boxes] on campus," Courtney said.

Even if they were able to find the necessary parts to repair them, it would be more cost-efficient to buy new boxes, and it would just be better to take them down than have them not work, Executive Assistant to the President Robert Crew said.

Bourque agreed, saying that having the emergency call boxes around campus gives students a feeling of safety, which is not being provided by the system.

Both Crew and Bourque added that the need for call boxes on campus has declined due to the use of cell phones.

"I bet everybody on this campus has a cell phone," Crew said. "I don't know of anybody who doesn't."

Bourque said that in the event of an emergency, a cell phone would prove to be more effective than any of the call boxes.

"If something's happening, it's hard enough to dial on a cell phone, much less find a call box," Bourque said.

Sophomore music education major Andrew Mills, however, said he disagrees.

"There's definitely a need for the [call boxes] because you're not always going to have your cell phone with you," Mills said. "It's not too much to ask to just have [the boxes] as a safety precaution."

As of now, the university has no plans of replacing the old system with a new one.

"With the budget situation the way it is, we can't [decide that] right now," Crew said. "I think we'd probably like to replace them, but it's going to be very expensive."

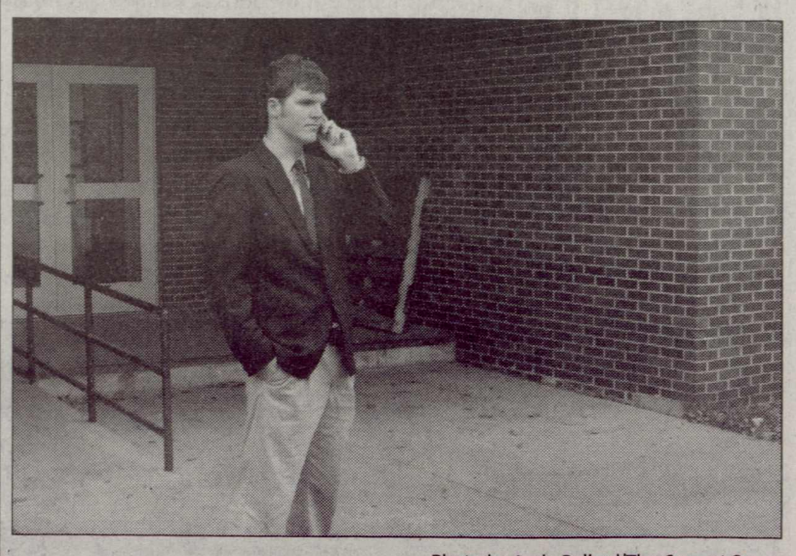


Photo by Andy Bullard/The Current Sauce

Andrew Mills uses his cell phone in lieu of call boxes.

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February Is Neuter and Spay Month

The United States is facing a crisis, largely outside of the public awareness, in the form of a severe overpopulation of dogs and cats. Many if not most of these excess animals end up unwanted and homeless, with some of them suffering terribly and ultimately dying from starvation, disease, and injury, while others end up in animal shelters where most are euthanized because of an insufficient level of adoption. Tragically, millions of animals whose only offense is to be unwanted are killed every year in animal shelters, a huge number that represents a national disgrace. The only real long term solution to this pet overpopulation problem is large scale neutering and spaying, also called "fixing." With this fact in mind, February has been officially declared National Spay and Neuter Month by humane societies across the United States including the Natchitoches Humane Society.

Beyond ending the large scale killing of unwanted animals (and the related problem of finding homes for the puppies or kittens every time a litter is born), there are several reasons why a pet owner should have his or her pet spayed/neutered. First, there are health benefits for your pet, particularly females. Spaying/neutering greatly reduces or completely eliminates the risk of serious cancers related to the reproductive tract or the mammary glands, along with certain possibly life threatening reproductive tract infections. Secondly, there are behavioral benefits. A spayed/neutered animal is much less likely to spray or otherwise territory mark inside the house, usually will be less aggressive towards you and any other pets in the household, and in the case of female cats will not engage in constant, hugely irritating crying while in heat (in addition, an inside cat or dog in heat will likely draw a host of unneutered males into your yard, with male cats quite likely making their own nerve-wracking ruckus from fighting and/or crying). Behavioral benefits coincide with safety benefits, since reproductively active cats and dogs are very likely to try to escape the house and/or stray from the yard in an attempt to find a mate, putting them at risk of being injured if not outright killed or becoming permanently lost. Thus, for the sake of ending the tragic, disgraceful large scale killing of unwanted animals, and improving the health and safety of beloved pets, responsible pet owners should have all of their pets properly spayed/neutered.

Budget cuts strike again, Research Day loses face

David Royal
News Editor

Participants in NSU Research Day 2009 can expect to experience a different format of events this year due primarily to budget cuts, according to Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Priscilla Kilcrease.

Although she confirmed the event is indeed still taking place, Kilcrease said she and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs had to explore changes to reduce the cost of Research Day, which is scheduled for April 2.

In past years, students and faculty who participated in Research Day presented their research in person to the attendees.

This year, however, Kilcrease explained that, most likely, participants will present their research over the Internet. She said participants will provide links to their studies and tools to their presentation, such as audio clips or PowerPoint presentations.

This form of presentation will be called the participant's "monograph," Kilcrease wrote in a memorandum sent to those assisting with Research Day.

By presenting their information via the Internet, Kilcrease said the need for paper copies will be reduced, which will save a tremendous amount of money.

To publicize the monographs, Kilcrease estimated in her memorandum that the cost could be around $750.

Associate Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Carla Howell said all those involved with the event are still taking measures to ensure that Research Day is a success.

"We're going to do our best to make sure it is still a quality event," Howell said.

Bryant Weldon, a senior liberal arts major at the Louisiana Scholars' College, said he is disappointed with the direction the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is taking.

Weldon is working on his senior thesis for the Scholars' College and said he was relying on Research Day to serve as an opportunity to practice his presentation.

Because of the new online approach, however, Weldon said he and many other students in the Scholars' College decided not to participate in this year's Research Day.

Weldon said this is because there is the threat that if he puts his information online, anyone can simply steal his ideas and publish it before he does.

Although he understands the fiscal reasons behind the change, Weldon said he thinks Research Day should have been one of the last things to be changed on campus.

Regardless of whatever changes are approved and take place this year, Howell said Research Day will still host a keynote speaker and present an awards ceremony.

This year's speaker is Roberto Scandone, an international scholar and professor of geophysics at the University of Rome. According to the memorandum, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will designate about $4,000 to fund Scandone's appearance, which will include travel expenses and a gift of appreciation.

SGA allocates funds for student section makeover

David Royal
News Editor

The Student Government Association plans to allocate roughly $40,000 to modify all of NSU sporting events' student sections, according to SGA Senator Chris Sanders.

In order to effectively designate the specific areas on which the money should be spent, Sanders and former SGA President Shayne Creppel formed the Spirit Enhancement Committee last year.

Sanders, who is head of the Spirit Enhancement Committee, said the group is looking into clearly outlining where the student sections are located at sporting events and changing each sections' aesthetic appearance by possibly repainting or even replacing the bleachers.

Originally, the committee intended to spend the $40,000 on a purple lighting system that would be installed on the exterior columns of Turpin Stadium.

After consideration, however, Sanders and SGA President Cody Bourque decided to redirect the funds.

Bourque said he hopes to spend the money on something that will directly impact the students.

"Improving the student section will hopefully stimulate and enhance the atmosphere at games," Bourque said.

Some students have mixed opinions, however, concerning the effect the improved student sections will make on campus.

Shay Lewis, a sophomore psychology major, said she does not regularly attend NSU sporting events.

Lewis added, though, that she thinks that she will not be enticed to go in the future even if the student section is changed.

Sophomore biology major Kyle Duhon disagrees.

Duhon said he thinks improving the student section would be a positive idea for the university.

"I really don't know that it would boost attendance; however, I think it would make the student section stand out, and people would know that is our section," Duhon said.

Both Sanders and Bourque said that the Spirit Enhancement Committee is still in the beginning phase of planning.

At this point, the committee is trying to assess what the students would actually want the funds to be spent on, Bourque said.

"We can put as much money as we want into the project, but we need to be sure that's what the students want," Bourque said.

Sanders explained that the committee is also considering other methods to improve the athletic experience for the student body.

Some of these methods include instilling more NSU traditions during games, putting a greater emphasis on tailgating and giving out more giveaways to students.

Sanders also said he intends on whatever changes that will be made to the student section in Turpin Stadium will be completed by the fall.

Bourque said he is confident that whatever Sanders and the Spirit Enhancement Committee decide to do with the $40,000 will go toward something special for the students.

"They will be adding something that is memorable and unique for everyone," Bourque said.

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Phi Mu sorority house groundbreaking photos at thecurrentsauce.com



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Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

Serious Praise dancers perform to "Let This Be Our Praise" by gospel singers Donnie McClurkin and Yolanda Adams at the 8th Annual Black History Program in Magale Recital Hall.

Black history program 'brings twist'

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Helping Hands, a group sponsored by the Student Support Services put on their eighth annual Black History Program on Feb. 12 in Magale Recital Hall.

The program centered on NSU Helping Hands members dressing as and paying tribute to famous African American entertainers who performed at a famous nightclub in New York City called the Cotton Club, which was open during the prohibition period in the United States.

The program honored some of the most important moments in history. Recognized Student Organizations at NSU performed skits, songs and poems to represent significant events in each decade, ending with the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The program opened with master of ceremony Langston Hughes – played by NSU student Patrick Brooks – who introduced everyone in the Cotton Club.

The Lifted Voices Gospel Choir sang "Amazing Grace," followed by Brook's recitation of Hughes' famous work, "The Weary Blues."

In true southern style the crowd and audiences danced and shimmied in their seats while a group of students dressed as Louis Armstrong and The Gambits performed a second-line version of "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Then the women took the stage, and a student dressed as Gwendolyn Brooks recited the poem "The Crazy Lady."

Subsequently, the legendary star Billie Holiday – played by Jasmine Shafer – took the stage in her black and white attire and signature flower hair sung four songs, two of them being "Lady Sings The Blues" and "Strange Fruit."

The Student Government Association produced and showed a clip along with doing a skit called "Ruby Bridges: Through My Eyes." Ruby Bridges was the first African American child to integrate schools in the United States.

Brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi brought smiles to everyone's faces when they paid homage to Berry Gordy and the all-time Motown group The Temptations singing "The Way You Do The Things You Do," "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" and "Just My Imagination."

"I really enjoyed getting ready for the program," senior biology major Keith Domingue said. "I think it was very entertaining and meaningful; it has been awhile since we've seen a large amount of black people come together and do something positive."

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha retold the story of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech and his assassination, and retold the story of the first black men to go into a restaurant.

NSU Serious Praise performed a spiritual dance to "Let This Be Our Praise" by Donnie McClurkin and Yolanda Adams.

The Black History Program ended with the National Association of Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) presented NSU with President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama look-a-likes and the singing of the Black National Anthem written by James Weldon Johnson.

"The program was very good and innovative. They brought a twist to it," junior psychology major Sierra Thomas said.

Students and guests applauded and whistled at the cast as they bowed and thanked everyone for attending the program.

"I enjoyed it very much," Director of Student Support Services Don Barker said. "The students put a lot of time and effort into it. I am very proud to be associated with students who are so committed to their education."



Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

NSU student Jasmine Shafer sings "Lady Sings The Blues," portraying Billie Holiday at the Black History Program.

Music conference inspires upbeat outlook for students

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

Fifty of NSU's 250 music education majors attended the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) convention.

TMEA has been "promoting excellence in music education since 1920."

According to TMEA.org, TMEA's goals include providing professional growth opportunities, encouraging interaction among music education professionals, fostering public support for music in schools, offering quality musical experiences for students, cultivating universal appreciation and lifetime involvement in music, and developing and maintaining productive working relationships with other professional organizations.

Every year the Texas Music Educators Association hosts a convention in San Antonio, Texas. Many of the students in attendance are either part of a Texas All-State band, choir or orchestra.

At the convention, some vendors allow students to play their instruments. Students also attend lectures, clinics and workshops.

Six faculty members accompanied the students to the convention, which they used as a recruitment opportunity.

"It's very rewarding," Kevin Richardson, NSU's band director said. "I made contact with about 100 potential students."

Richardson said many students choose to go to the event because it is held in San Antonio, which he said is relatively close to Natchitoches.

Robin Barr, junior clarinet player, attended the convention for the first time this year.

"Being around music is wonderful and being around other people who enjoy it just as much makes you want to be there even more," Barr said. "It's also a great way to meet people who are already in the music industry."

Barr summed up her first year as being simply amazing.

"Those high school kids from the entire state make me, as a college student, want to improve my skills. Nothing but music for four days was wonderful," she said. "It's an experience that anybody that loves music should experience."

Carlos Ortiz IV, a senior trumpet player, has been going to TMEA for three years. As a native of San Antonio, Ortiz got a chance to go home and see old friends and directors.

"It's nice being somewhere else besides [here]," Ortiz said.

He said he considers TMEA an early spring break vacation.

Not all students look at TMEA that way, though.

Sophomore trumpet player Brittany Laza has gone to the conference for four years. This year was her first time going as a college student.

"It was nice being on the college/educator side of it," Laza said.

Laza said one clinic made her realize what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

"I attended a clinic called 'Pitch Matching! You're the Last Chance!' It was geared towards elementary music and teaching kids to hear pitches and match pitch outside of the entire class singing in unison," she said.

Laza also said the networking was an amazing part of the conference.

"There are so many people you can use as resources because they'll be in your life for the rest of your career," she said.

She even saw her mother's band director from high school.

Though TMEA appears to be strictly for music majors, it is not. Laza's boyfriend attended the convention with her and learned just as much as she did.

"I really would like our peers to realize that music is so much more than just a hobby or a pastime," Laza said. "I just wish we had a greater appreciation for music and a better understanding of what it can do for us."

Fast Fact

According to the Core Institute, an organization that surveys college drinking practices, 300,000 of today's college students will eventually die of alcohol-related causes such as drunk driving accidents, cirrhosis of the liver, various cancers and heart disease.

Courtesy of factsontaps.org

Black History Month Facts

On this day...

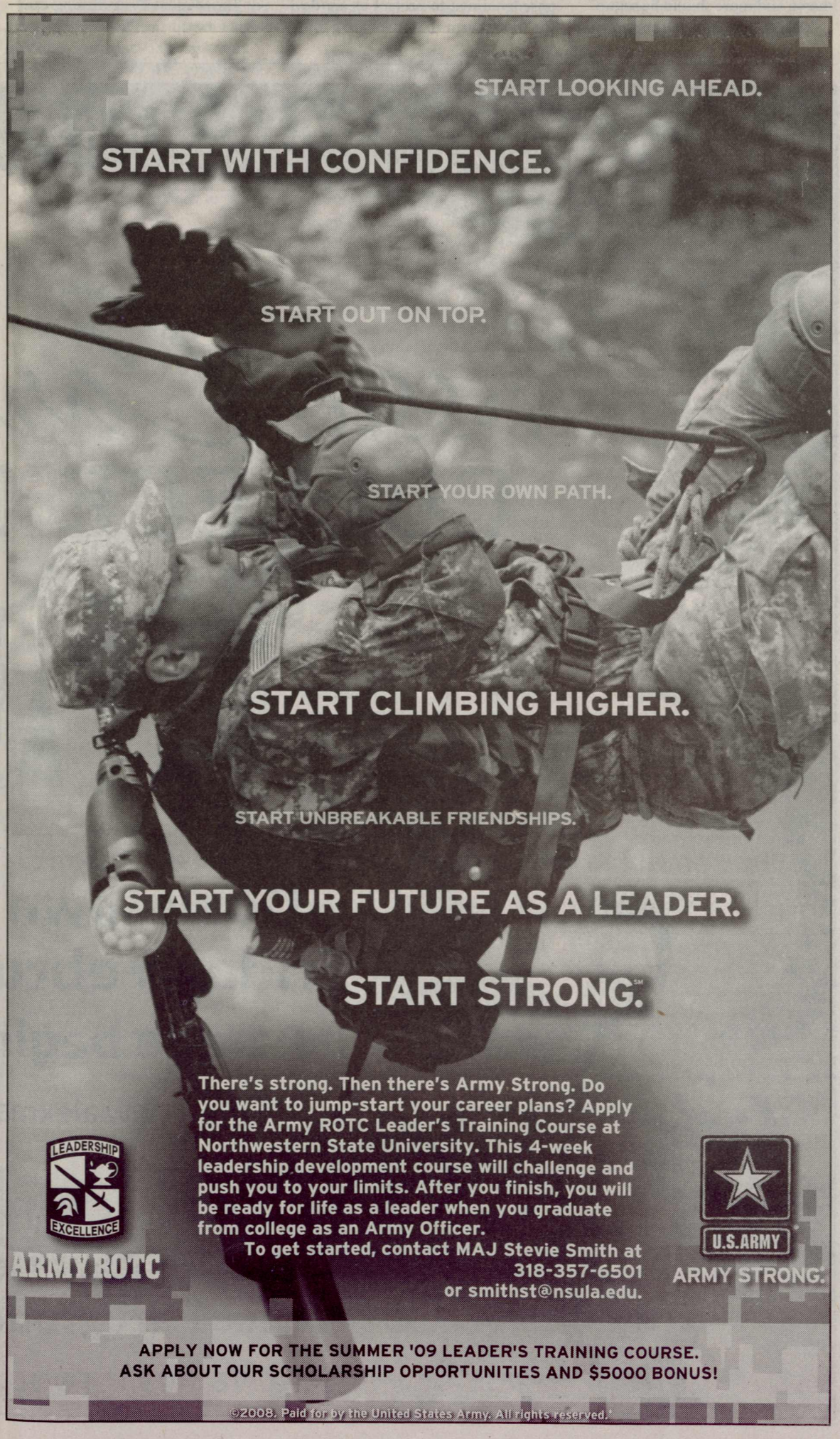
The first formal antislavery resolution was passed by the Quakers of Germantown, Pa., on this date in 1688. The Society of Friends said slavery opposed Christianity and human rights.

Paul Revere Williams, NAACP Spingarm Medal recipient and architect who designed the Hollywood YMCA and fabulous homes for celebrities, was born in Los Angeles, Calif., on this date in 1894.

Toni Morrison, writer and the first black woman to be awarded the "Nobel Prize in Literature," was born in Lorian, Ohio, on this date in 1931. Morrison received the "Pulitzer Prize" for her book, "Beloved," in 1988.

The African nation of Gambia gained its independence on this date in 1965 with David K. Jawara as its prime minister. Gambia had remained the last British colony in West Africa.

Courtesy of www.yenoba.com.



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February 18, 2009

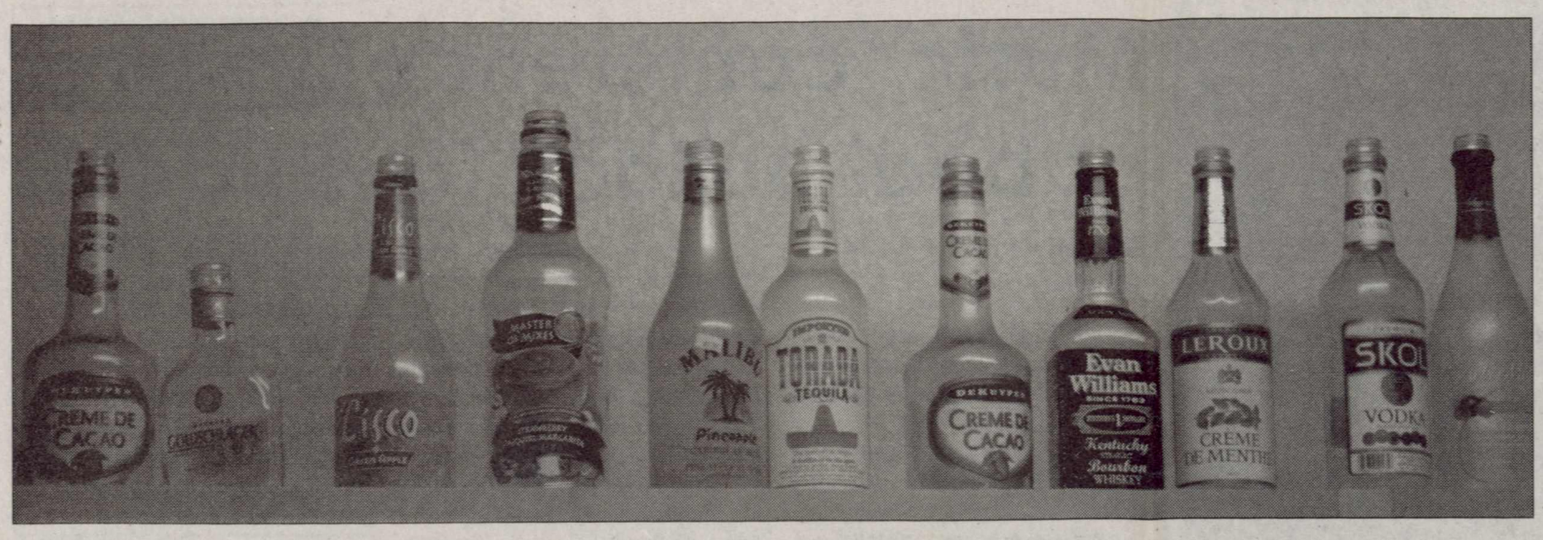


Photo Illustration by David Holmes/The Current Sauce

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

New group aims to educate community

Tori Ladd
LIfe Editor

Students for Sensible Drug Policy, a new Recognized Student Organization on campus, plans to provide amnesty to students who offer help to students with substance abuse problems.

It is a national grassroots structured organization for students and faculty members who feel as though the war on drug use is failing, and it intends to improve the situation through political actions and motivating students.

"This should be looked at as a health issue, and it should be more help on campus for students who have addiction problems," Vice President Chris Watts said. "The counseling services we have should be made known and more should be set up."

Watts, a senior journalism major, said the NSU chapter of SSPD plans to establish a "good Samaritan policy" in Natchitoches, ultimately protecting students who offer help.

The RSO also hopes to gain a resolution with Student Government Association to remove clauses of actions on suspicion along with solving issues dealing with dorm room privacy and eviction policy.

Another goal of the group is to change policies that hinder students, but in no way does SSPD encourage or condemn drug use, Watts said.

This semester SSPD will try to have rallies, forums, fundraisers and a "Freedom Music Festival," Watts said.

"I think what we are doing is a good thing, trying to do what we can around campus because we feel that a lot of these policies that are supposedly aimed to protect us are doing more harm than they are good," Watts said.

Nationally SSPD is also pushing to eliminate counterproductive drug polices.

SSPD is embracing the mission of mobilizing and empowering young people, as well as advocating measures that would effectively help those who develop drug problems.

The national headquarters for SSPD is in Washington, D.C., with more than 100 chapters in the United States and Canada.

Some of SSPD's national campaigns are the Higher Education Act that made Congress scale back the law that applies to students who lose aid due to drug convictions.

The Campus Change campaign was designed to help student activists keep fellow students safe from harmful and ineffective punishments.

The Student Drug Testing campaign focused on the idea that students should not be locked out of extracurricular activities, according to the SSPD Web site.

So far NSU's SSPD has talked with Service Learning Coordinator Steve Gruesbeck about how they can be more involved with NSU's Green Initiative.

SSPD has contact information on Facebook and Myspace for students with comments or questions, and the group also supports a Web site – www.ssdp.org.

Watts said until further notice meetings will be held every other week, but this week's meeting will be held on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Friedman Student Union Cane River Room.

"Remember, our meetings are open to everyone, including faculty and non-students," said Watts. "Don't be afraid to bring a buddy," Watts said.

SAB looks to find Isabella's heart, plan Spring Fling

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

The SAB has been staying active this month with several events to get students involved on campus, including two that required extra participation from students.

The SAB T-shirt design contest is currently in full swing for any students who would like to exhibit their creativity on this year's Spring Fling T-shirt.

"Normally we make the design, but we're trying to reach out to the student population and get them more involved in the student events," sophomore social work major and Special Events Committee Chair Genny Broggi said.

Each student who participates is to come up with a design for the theme "I love the '90s" and submit it to the SAB office in room 232 of the Friedman Student Union.

The winner will receive a prize package, which will include a gift card, a T-shirt with his or her design and a couple of SAB giveaways.

The contest began on Feb. 2, and students will have until Feb. 27 to submit their ideas. The SAB plans to announce a winner by Feb. 28, Broggi said.

Students who would like more information about the contest can pick up informational sheets in the SAB office.

The SAB hosted another contest, which sent residents of University Place Phase II on a scavenger hunt for Isabella's heart.

"[We chose] Isabella since she's our ghost, and it was finding her heart since it was Valentine's week," Lynda Hammet, executive residential representative, said.

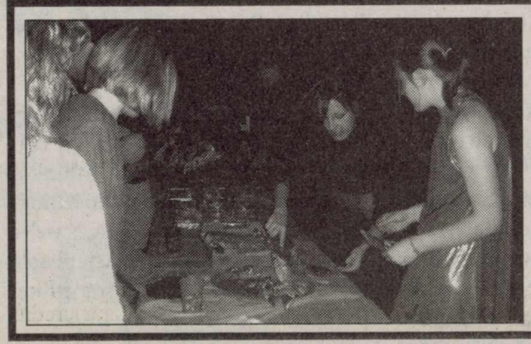
During the week of Feb. 9-13, clues were hung up every day in the laundry and study rooms on each floor of University Place II.

The clues included rhymes such as "It's somewhere close, not near or far, in the middle you might see a star!" on Monday, and "Round and round the wheels they spin, the closer you are the easier the win!" on Wednesday.

Residents Sarah Sadler and Corey Chachere found Isabella's heart Thursday in the laundry room on the second floor of the privatized housing.

"[The prize] was a goodie bag of NSU things – a sweatshirt, T-shirt, mug, key chain and some other little things," Hammet said.

The SAB will also be hosting a card game called Mafia on Feb. 19 at the University Columns at 8 p.m.



Mardi Gras

Photo by Sarah Cramer/ The Current Sauce

SAB hosted its Mardi Gras Masquerade Tuesday.

ALEXANDRIA MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION
Classic Cars AND COLLEGE CHEERLEADERS Parade
Downtown Alexandria
Friday, February 20, 2009
Parade begins @ 4:30 pm
www.alexmardigras.com
DON'T MISS THE EXTENDED FUN
Before Party kicks off @ 3:30
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LIVE MUSIC. FOOD. DOWNTOWN FUN!
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Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu

Red vs. Blue: Of stimuli and partisanship

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



A lot of the talk lately on the news is of the stimulus plan that President Obama is trying to push through congress. The claim is that republicans want President Obama's plan to fail and that we disagree with everything that comes out of the president's mouth. The claim is partly correct. We do want his stimulus bill to fail. The reason for this is the stimulus bill is all about building up the Democratic Party, and it is about the democrats once again putting themselves first.

They want to run things their way instead of doing things the American way. By claiming he will create new jobs, Obama is trying to fool America into thinking this stimulus bill is the right way to go. Yet, the republicans are still blamed for being in the wrong.

Here's a news flash, just because we disagree does not mean we hate the president and his ideas. We will disagree, but instead of blaming the republicans, I can't help but wonder why Obama isn't "uniting" us as he promised to do. Instead he blames the problems there are on the republicans and on the Bush administration.

He, like many on the left, would rather play the blame game than get the work done that needs to get done. So why is it that republicans cannot disagree with Obama? Why is it that if we say one thing we are being hateful? Anderson Cooper of CNN recently said, "Republicans have decided to declare war on the president."

When the left opposed the war on Iraq, were they accused of declaring war on the president? How about when they wanted troops to surrender and come home, were they not being hateful toward the president's decisions? I do not see a difference here and wonder how it is that the left can say what they want, but the right comes under attack for opposing a bill that is an abomination to our country.

That is what I would really like to know. When will the left do what they are supposed to do and not waste time blaming others for their stupid mistakes? Why does the right continue to be criticized for being "right"?

We are free to say and think whatever we want, and that goes for both sides. The left and the right. So let's be fair about it and accept both sides opinion.

The left is all for blaming republicans for being "wrong" because they oppose the president instead of getting their stuff done. They know it is easier to push the blame off on somebody else than to accept responsibility for their crazy proposals and ideas.

The focus should be on finding something that will help America prosper and not just help the democrats prosper.

Heath Boddie
Guest Columnist



Bipartisanship from the republicans? That's a myth kind of like Bigfoot and the Easter bunny.

Last week, democrats in Congress were able to get the $787 billion stimulus package passed, which in all likelihood will prevent our economy from collapsing.

The bill passed in the House with zero republican votes, even though House democrats allotted extra time to republicans to debate on the House floor and added some provisions favored by republicans, something unheard of when republicans had the majority.

The Senate passed the bill with the exact number required, 60. The bill gained only three republican votes, two being from Maine republicans who are more liberal than most blue-dog democrats.

The other voter was a republican from Pennsylvania who will be locked in a nasty fight for his political life come 2010.

President Obama did the unusual thing and went to the capitol building to meet with the leadership of both the House and Senate republicans and conceded some of what he wanted to the republicans for compromise.

The republicans showed what their true spirit was with their votes, or lack thereof.

One republican senator even went as far as to say that democrats "decided on a random dollar amount in the neighborhood of $1 trillion and then set out to fill the bucket."

Mind you that congressional republicans were not making any noise when former President Bush was giving tax cuts left and right out of his behind and then running up a $8 trillion deficit, erasing the surplus that former President Bill Clinton had left after eight years of steady growth and prosperity.

This stimulus bill has tens of billions of dollars allocated for states that are facing massive deficits to prevent cuts to schools that republicans tend to favor, a tax cut for 95 percent of Americans, $48 billion for massively needed infrastructure improvements, $70 billion for upper-middle class Americans that republicans asked for (and voted against), and billions to create green-based jobs and high-tech jobs.

This bill is not perfect, but nothing ever is. This bill will prevent a total meltdown of our economy and stimulate it back to where we were before Bush and his fellow republicans brought us.

They gave out tax cuts in the feigned belief of trickle-down economics and the allocation of money to fight a war in Iraq where we never belonged in the first place.

If republicans want to help out in the next round of negotiations in how to better our country, the simple answer is for them to just go away.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Student opposes 'Octomom'

Richelle Stephens
Staff Columnist



I have no desire at all to have children. However, I still believe that those who choose to bring a life into this world should at least consider every possible circumstance surrounding this monumental and life altering decision.

That being said, I become physically ill every time I hear of Nadya Suleman, the California woman who just had octuplets.

Indeed, having eight children at once is quite the rare occurrence and a physical ordeal. However, before you continue to lionize Suleman, consider the following.

One of the first things that I noticed during her interview with Ann Curry on the "Today Show" was that she's already $50,000 in debt, she's currently – and "temporarily" - relying on student loans to help raise the six children she already had, and that she'll pay off said loans once she starts to work again.

However, she's apparently not just relying on depleting student loans. A Web site has been set up so that "fans" of "Octomom" can donate money – through any major credit/debit card or PayPal account – to her.

I noted on her Web site that donations and items can also be sent to her media relations agent. Where did she get the money to hire them? Surely student loans couldn't cover those fees.

I also noticed that she received disability payments totaling more than $100,000 over the course of nearly a decade for back injuries sustained from when she worked at a mental hospital.

If she's had problems regarding her back, then why is she having children at all? Carrying one child is enough to cause back problems for the mother, but carrying around eight at once could be quite troublesome.

But enough about Suleman for now, for the children are the victims here.

Curry asked Suleman how she was going to feed 14 children. And what was her response? She will feed them as best as she can. That is simply not good enough. Suleman needs to be completely certain that her children will be properly cared for. To do otherwise is beyond careless.

Suleman seems to be a little out of touch as to what is necessary to properly raise children. Coming from what she called a dysfunctional family, Suleman told Curry that she always wanted a large family. In fact, family members have told the press that she is obsessed with children.

However, does she realize that children need more than affection and attention? Does she realize that children need food, clothing and a good education to properly function in today's society?

What are to become of her children who are already known to have developmental disorders such as autism? Seeing that the octuplets were born premature, what are to become of the ones who may have a myriad of even greater problems?

Methinks that Suleman needs a reality check. Relying on student loans and donations to care for 14 children won't last long. But what do I know? I'm not a parent and have no desire to become one.

Be Frank: There's a Web site for that

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



Valentine's Day is a wonderful opportunity to point out an individual's lack of ability to find, keep or perhaps attract a mate.

The commercialized holiday helps candy companies, flower boutiques and restaurants battle this glorious recession by reinforcing the idea that love equals fruitless, expensive and potentially fake affection.

But luckily all you singles who vegged out on the couch eating a box of chocolate – you inevitably had to buy yourself – can find comfort.

Those singles hopelessly searching for their perfect mate at the bar or in between classes need to search no longer.

Because now, there is a Web site for that.

Cupid.com, eharmony.com and all the other dating sites have come to your rescue. They have found a way to eliminate, or at least diminish, your dating fears and inabilities.

Now instead of taking a risk saying hello to the girl across the way that has been giving you googlie eyes all night, you just enter in some of your data and fill out a not-so-simple survey. Then a list of individuals wanting to find a special someone and have the same fear of saying hello as you are there waiting anxiously for the computer to say, "You've got mail."

The Internet is beautiful, but it has become a shield for any potential embarrassing or awkward situations. What was once used to create communication between educated individuals has now become a tool used to inhibit any true personal interaction.

Dating is hard and difficult and sometimes seemingly not worthwhile, but people shouldn't expect a computer to find them a mate.

While it might be considered old fashioned, there is always something exciting and invigorating about those "chance encounters" with that special someone that send tingles down your spine. You can't experience that same rush of excitement when a computer matches you with your mate.

The Internet isn't simply used for just that initial interaction, but it has finagled its way into practically every aspect of life.

People can now keep constant communication with co-workers and friends and complete strangers using social media tools such as Twitter, Blogger and even most students' favorite, Facebook.

In case you wanted to know what someone is doing at every second of the day, Twitter has come to your rescue. People can now twit their daily actions on the Internet, and with just a couple clicks of some buttons their entire lives are made public.

Not quick enough for Twitter, no worries. There are now public diaries, also known as blogs, for your reading enjoyment.

At one time, girls would write their deepest darkest secrets in little notebooks with little gold-clasp locks and hide them under their pillows in the vein hope that their brothers won't go snooping. But now those pesky little boys can just hop online and find out all the juicy details about sister's latest break-up, newest zit and cutest teacher crush.

Just to ensure all the bases are covered, Facebook comes swooping in to combine all those aspects and put them on one little screen with the masquerade of networking.

Granted, networking was most likely Facebook's initial attempt and goal, but it has become the center of college students' lives. Not only can you post what you are doing at any given time, but it has become the primal stalking tool.

There are no secrets to your Facebook relationships. They are broadcasted on all your friends' newsfeeds, and they fill your e-mail.

But Facebook has this wonderful tool that no other form of social media has been able to master as gracefully. You can now dump your girlfriend with the click of a button. No need for the embarrassing "break-up talk;" just post it on Facebook.

The best part – your friends will be the first to know and will ensure multiple hour-long Facebook conversations.

Yes, sometimes this type of communication is wonderful. But just as anything else, it has the potential to be horrible.

When people choose to forgo daily activities to hide behind a computer screen, there is something wrong.

According to a Dec. 15, 2008, article on CNN.com, 46 percent of women surveyed were willing to engage in abstinence verses losing their access to Internet, and 30 percent of the men surveyed were willing to do likewise.

The Internet does have its advantages and when used appropriately and in moderation can be an extremely useful tool.

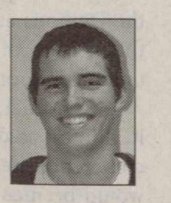
According to the same CNN article, 87 percent of the 2,119 adults surveyed said the Internet saves them money by use of price comparisons, discounts, special promotions and additional coupons. But the savings and benefits are not worth giving up the simple pleasures in life.

It is those simple pleasures in life that get lost behind the technological revolution and our new Web 2.0 world.

It is OK to not to have a Valentine, but it is not OK to get lost in technology.

Louisianan expresses Mardi Gras anger

Andrew Bordelon
Guest Columnist



Picture screaming rioters jumping on couches and truck beds.

Imagine rows of ladders and tarps surrounded by scattered trash and colorful strands of plastic, the smell of beer and dirty asphalt rising up to meet the stench of body odor and cigarette smoke, followed shortly by the unpleasant scent of urine and vomit.

To some people this might seem a bit chaotic, but to others it is a celebration.

When most people think about Mardi Gras, they don't think about how it is a final day of celebration for Catholics before beginning the 40 days of Lent in preparation for Easter.

Most people will instead think of images like the ones I just mentioned.

Since it is that kind of thinking that gives Mardi Gras its reputation, people generally see that type of behavior as acceptable during the Mardi Gras season.

During any other time of the year, a person would be judged for drinking large quantities of alcohol in the morning or sleeping on a couch on the neutral ground, but not during Mardi Gras.

I can think of no other time or place where a woman can flash her breasts in front of a church while she tries to acquire as many plastic beads of little or no value as she can.

I have watched college students doing keg stands while police officers play beer pong.

As an average day of celebration and drinking continues, a person's experiences will only become more interesting.

For some people it can be a positive experience, such as getting enough nice beads to make drunken girls flash for them, making friends with a group of people who just happened to have too much food for them to eat or just simply being able to sit back in a drunken daze and enjoy the music of the bands as you watch the blur of blinking lights roll down the street.

On the other hand, some people will have more negative experiences.

There are those unfortunate few, or many, during Mardi Gras who are judged by friends and a girlfriend at the time because of the appearance of vomit on their clothes or a failed drunken pick-up attempt.

Some people, fooled by the combination of darkness and beer goggles, even wake up in the morning next to a rather unattractive peer.

I, however, would rather be in that situation than in one that some find themselves in the morning, jail.

There will always be good and bad days during Mardi Gras, many of which are paid for by several painful morning hours, but I think those are worth the good times had over those few days.

The type of behavior that comes with Mardi Gras should not be judged, though. Would you call someone studying all hours of the day during finals a nerd, or a girl who dresses trashy on Halloween a slut?

Mardi Gras is a time for tourists to enjoy and locals to celebrate.

Some people might say we have too much fun, but for us locals, we are not alcoholics.

We are just from New Orleans.

Letter to the Editor: Student disapproves of justice's attire

To the students of Northwestern State University:

Attention: We have a poser in our midst. I enjoy the Current Sauce and all that it has to offer, so I would like to thank them for bringing this SGA fraud to my attention.

As I am reading The Current Sauce of Wednesday, February 4, 2009, I look at page 2 "SGA bill deemed unconstitutional" and next to this article is a picture of 4 SGA members and staring back at me from one of our SGA Supreme Court Justices' is a Tulane sweatshirt.

I do not know who he is or why he is at NSU because no one wants you or your Tulane sweatshirt here. I'm sorry, but if you like Tulane so much please feel free to leave NSU, you will not be missed, this goes to all the students who wear LSU shirts as well.

NSU was my first and only choice for my higher education. I grew up next to LSU and had so much enjoyment ripping up my LSU acceptance letter in front of my LSU fanatic parents.

I am a proud NSU demon and to have someone in my school government supporting another school really galls me.

So to the NSU SGA: If you want to support another college/university please get the hell out of here, we do not want you, or your Tulane sweatshirts around here.

A REAL NSU DEMON
Tobin Johnson

Space for rent: Interested in prime real estate? You can secure this spot! Just submit your columns or letters to the editor to us at our e-mail address: thecurrentsauce@gmail.com.

Andy Bullard
Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editors
February 18, 2009

Demons double down Bears

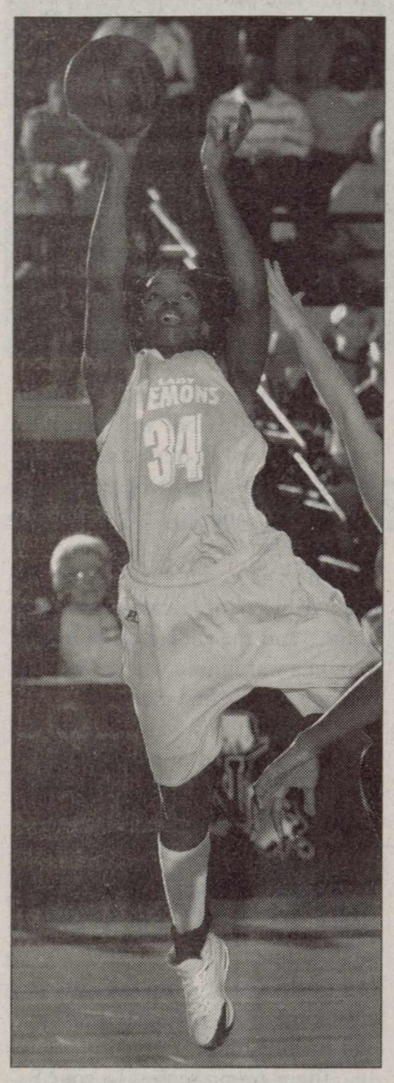


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Forward Sherrion Thomas (34) scored a career-high 19 points.

Jake Cooper
Sauce Reporter

Upon dropping their last two games to conference foes, the Northwestern State Lady Demons (15-8, 7-3 SLC) tipped off against the University of Central Arkansas Lady Bears (6-18, 2-9 SLC) in Prather Coliseum Saturday afternoon in a successful effort to right the ship.

The Lady Demons defeated the Lady Bears handily with a 72-61 advantage that was accompanied by a stellar performance from junior forward Sherrion Thomas.

Thomas scored a career-high 19 points and collected a career-high 12 boards.

"I was very proud of our post players," head coach Jennifer Graf told the Sports Information Department. "With Courtney [Shead] out, Sherrion and Keke [Goodson] knew they had to step up. We have some very talented players inside, no question."

Though the Lady Demons lost their last game with Stephen F. Austin, the win over the Lady Bears keeps NSU ahead in the Southland Conference East by a half-game over SFA. At the end of the first half the Lady Demons held a one-point edge, 35-34, over the Lady Bears.

The Lady Demons went a measly 13-39 from the field that included 6-14 shots made from behind the arc. The Lady Bears combined for 13-31 but only made three 3-pointers out of 13 attempted.

In the second half, the Lady Demons' shooting improved drastically; they attempted 17 fewer shots in the second half than they did in the first half but made the same 13 shots to improve to 59 percent from the field.

The Lady Bears, on the other hand, were not as fortunate. Their shooting woes continued in the second half as they made 12 of 31 from the field and only 2 of 9 from threeland. The Lady Demons also handled the Lady Bears on the boards 45-37 for just their second out-rebounding performance in their last eight games.

Aside from Sherrion Thomas' career night, the Lady Demons had two other scorers in double figures. Sophomore guard Jessica McPhail scored 18 points (15 in the second half) on an efficient 7-11 from the field with 6 boards and 2 dimes, and freshman do-it-all guard Demetria White added 12 points, 7 rebounds, and 6 dimes.

Laura Beth Anderson lead the Lady Bears with 17 points followed by Nakeia Guiden with 14 and Chorcelle Taylor with 13. The Lady Demons take action again this Wednesday when they travel to Lake Charles to take on McNeese State University (10-13, 2-8 SLC) at 7 p.m.

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

It was a busy week for the NSU men's basketball team, which suffered a loss to the Stephen F. Austin University Lumberjacks Wednesday and a redeeming victory over the University of Central Arkansas Bears Saturday.

The Demons and the Lumberjacks faced off in Prather Coliseum with the Demons coming up short in a close 51-59 game. Freshman center William Mosley led the Demons in rebounds with 14, as senior forward Kalem Porterie was the only other Demon in double figures with 13.

Porterie also contributed 12 points in the loss - the only Demon to score in double figures.

It was tight in the first half as the Demons were held at bay by only a couple of points, but things lagged behind in the second half.

Mosley attributed Wednesday's loss to a decline in aggressive defense.

"We should have gotten back on transition and tightened our defense because we lost that toward the end," Mosley said.

Porterie offered slightly different reasons for the loss.

"There was no passion," Porterie said. "The goal is to win conference games, and a lot of the guys on the team are freshmen, sophomores—new to this and they don't understand that yet. But they will."

The understanding may have begun Saturday as the Demons held off the Central Arkansas Bears resulting in a 79-77 win.

One word that can be considered synonymous with this game is rebounds.

Big rebounders in the game include Porterie with a career-best of 13, and 7 from junior guard Damon Jones.

"We got more hustle plays than we have in a long time," head coach Mike McConathy said.

Porterie managed a rebound off a missed free throw, and Jones came through in the ending seconds of the game by rebounding another missed free throw and executing two free throws of his own in the last seven seconds.

In addition to necessary rebounds were 3-pointers scored before halftime by Jones and sophomore guard Keithan Hancock.

McConathy cites the rebounds and free throws near the end as what stood out in the game and "made the difference."

This win places the Demons 2-8 in the Southland Conference with six league games left.

The next thing on the team's calendar is the home game against McNeese State University held Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

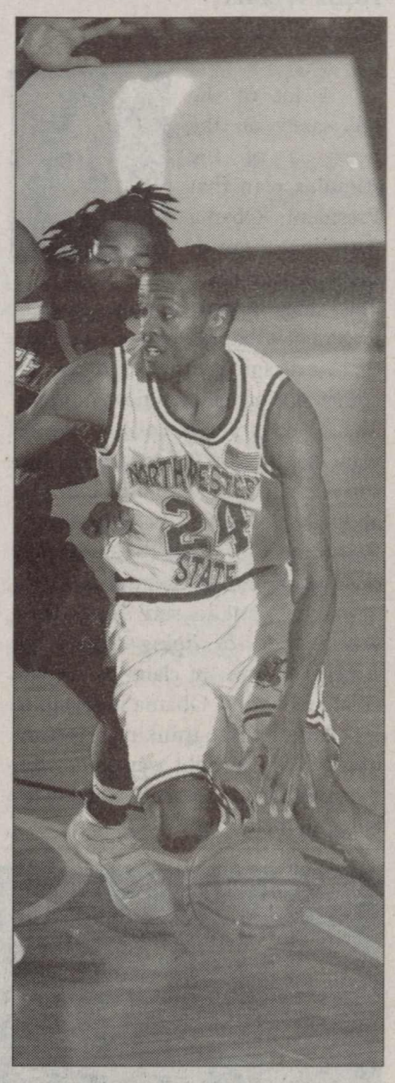


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Junior guard Damon Jones (24) hustles past a UCA defender.

Lady Demons swing and miss early season curve ball

Softball team starts 10-game road trip 1-9, anxious to get home

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU Lady Demon softball team has been on an extremely long road trip, one that has encompassed 10 different games in Mobile, Ala., Ruston, La., and Waco, Texas.

The 10-game road trip started in Mobile with the South Alabama tournament.

The Lady Demons first played host-team South Alabama and lost 11-2.

In their second game of the tourney, the Lady Demons played the then third-ranked University of Alabama and again lost by a wide margin of 12-2.

The losing streak continued as Jacksonville State beat them by a nail-biter of 2-1. NSU finally got its first win of the season against the Memphis Lady Tigers, 6-4.

In the victory, the Demons were down by a score of 4-2 in the top of the sixth inning.

Thanks in part to two wild pitches and a timely single by junior outfielder Randi Stuard, the Lady Demons were able to rally and come out on top.

Junior first baseman Amanda Jameson contributed to the victory going 2-4 with two RBIs.

Sophomore shortstop Cassy Poncik also had two base hits in three at-bats. She also scored two runs.

New to the Lady Demon roster, freshman pitcher Kelee Grimes earned her first win as an NSU pitcher.

She went the full seven innings, giving up only five base hits and four runs. None were earned.

After being in Alabama, the Lady Demons then traveled to Ruston to take on the Louisiana Tech Lady Bulldogs and unfortunately lost 4-0.

The Lady Demons' offense was only able to manage six total base hits. Grimes only lasted three and a third innings, giving up three total runs, two of which were earned.

"It's definitely just coming together as a team." junior first baseman Amanda Jameson said. "It's those little things like one mental error, not physical error that can turn a game around. If we can just come together and stay in it for seven innings, we'll be very successful."

NSU then traveled to Waco, Texas, for the Getterman Classic hosted by Baylor University.

In the first game of the Classic, the Lady Demons faced SLC foe Stephen F. Austin University and lost by a small margin of 3-2.

Sophomore starting pitcher Sara Dornelas pitched only three innings, giving up all three runs to the Ladyjacks on only five base hits.

Sophomore pitcher Leigh Appenfeller came in relieving and pitched three innings only giving up one base hit.

Sophomore catcher Leslie Johnson went 2-3 and singled home one of the Lady Demons' two runs.

The next game, the Lady Demons played host to Baylor and they were not very hospitable, beating NSU 14-4 in only six innings.

The Lady Demons played the University of New Mexico tough, but the offense wasn't able to come through and lost 3-0.

For the second time in the past three games, the Lady Demons were unable to play all seven innings, losing to Ole Miss 10-0 in five innings.

The last game of the Getterman Classic was a nail biter that went into extra innings.

The game was tied at zero until the eighth inning when freshman third baseman Tiffany Ward singled in Stuard for the game's first run of the game.

Up until the eighth inning, Grimes was pitching a gem.

She had given up only seven hits with five strikeouts, but a two-run home run by the University of Texas at San Antonio gave them the victory at 2-1.

"We have a lot of returners coming back so we have the experience." Jameson said. "The freshmen have good players to look up to, and the freshmen are good players. The positive thing is that we have returned coming that will do the job and get it done."

The Lady Demons' record now stands at 1-9 on the season.

They will continue their road trip by traveling to Grambling, La., to take on the Lady Tigers of Grambling State University.

The Lady Demons return home for the first time on Feb. 24. When they take on Southland Conference foe McNeese State University.

Lady Demon tennis splits home matches

Devon Drake
Web Editor

The NSU tennis team finished the weekend 1 and 1 in competition, losing to the University of Houston and defeating the University of Southern Mississippi.

In Saturday's match, NSU hosted the 10-1 University of Houston women's tennis team. The Demons, who are 2-2 for the season, lost the match 6-1.

Out of the six singles matches played, Bianca Schulz provided NSU with its only win, defeating Houston's Lynley Wasson in a three set, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory. The loss was Wasson's first of the season.

Schulz, teamed with Kathrin Lange, also won against Houston's Jordan McCombs and Laura Ring in an 8-6 win, giving the Demons their only doubles victory.

Despite the losses to Houston, NSU returned to the court Monday afternoon to take on the winless Southern Mississippi team, winning four of five singles matches and going 3 for 3 in the doubles competition. The win gave the team its second team victory of the season.

In the singles competition, NSU's Dragana Colic shut out Southern Miss' Sarah Ellis 6-0. Bianca Schulz stumbled slightly in the first set against Shannon Rogers, winning the set 7-6, after a 5-0 tiebreaker. However, she quickly recovered in the second set, winning 6-3.

NSU dominated the doubles competition, winning all three matches. Adna Curukovic and Suncica Strkic defeated Shannon Rogers and Sarah Ellis 8-3, Kathrin Lange and Bianca Schulz bested Stephanie Dellocono and Zoe Lee 8-5, and Olga Bazhanova and Dragana Colic won 8-5 against Elja Van Berlo and Lauren Gutterman.

"We played well as a team," head coach Patric DuBois said. "That's really all I can ask for. If we can build on this we will be looking nice come conference."

The ladies were supposed to return to action Tuesday afternoon; however, due to weather concerns, the game has been postponed.

The team's next match will take place Saturday in Fort Myers, Fla. against Florida Gulf Coast University.

The next home game will begin at 10 a.m. Feb. 28 on NSU's Jack Fisher Tennis Complex.

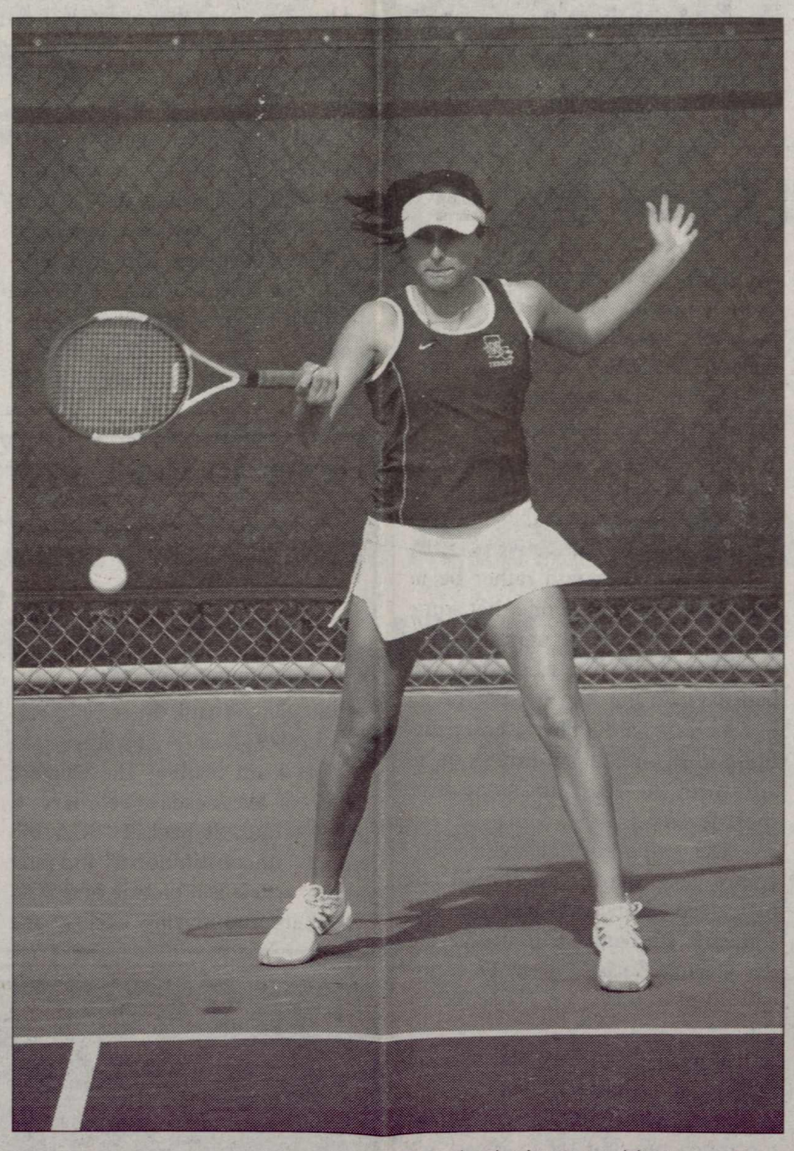


Photo by Fletcher Jonson/The Current Sauce
Freshman Olga Bazhanova returns a forehand winner against Southern Mississippi University Monday in the Lady Demons' 5-1 victory.

Track prepares for conference

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Showings against competition from schools such as Baylor, Arizona State, Houston, Texas, Southland Conference members Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Texas State and Texas-Arlington have the Demons ready for the conference meet this weekend.

Head coach Leon Johnson and assistant coach Haley Blount are optimistic about future meets, as they look for key athletes to "step up," Blount said.

"The highlights right now going into conference are Mike Green being ranked No. 1 in the quarter, the 400 [meter dash]," Blount said. "We should have several top three finishes on both sides. [Junior thrower] DeJon Griffin is ranked No. 2 in the weight throw. [Junior hurdler]Mike Hill is ranked No. 2 in high hurdles."

Hill was the eighth qualifier for Saturday's finals in the 60-meter dash.

Senior thrower Daniel Yarbrough also provided highlight for the Demons as he threw for 60-4 in the first day of the Texas A&M Invitational indoor track and field meet.

"If Daniel steps it up, he can win it," Blount said about the upcoming conference meet. "He's a senior, so it would be nice for him to come out with a win."

Yarbrough is ranked third in the Southland Conference.

The Demons compete in the Southland Conference indoor championships this weekend in Houston.

"We will show up and compete," Johnson said.

THE CURRENTSAUCE

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The Current Sauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 22

This week

Grill 155° works out kinks in first week

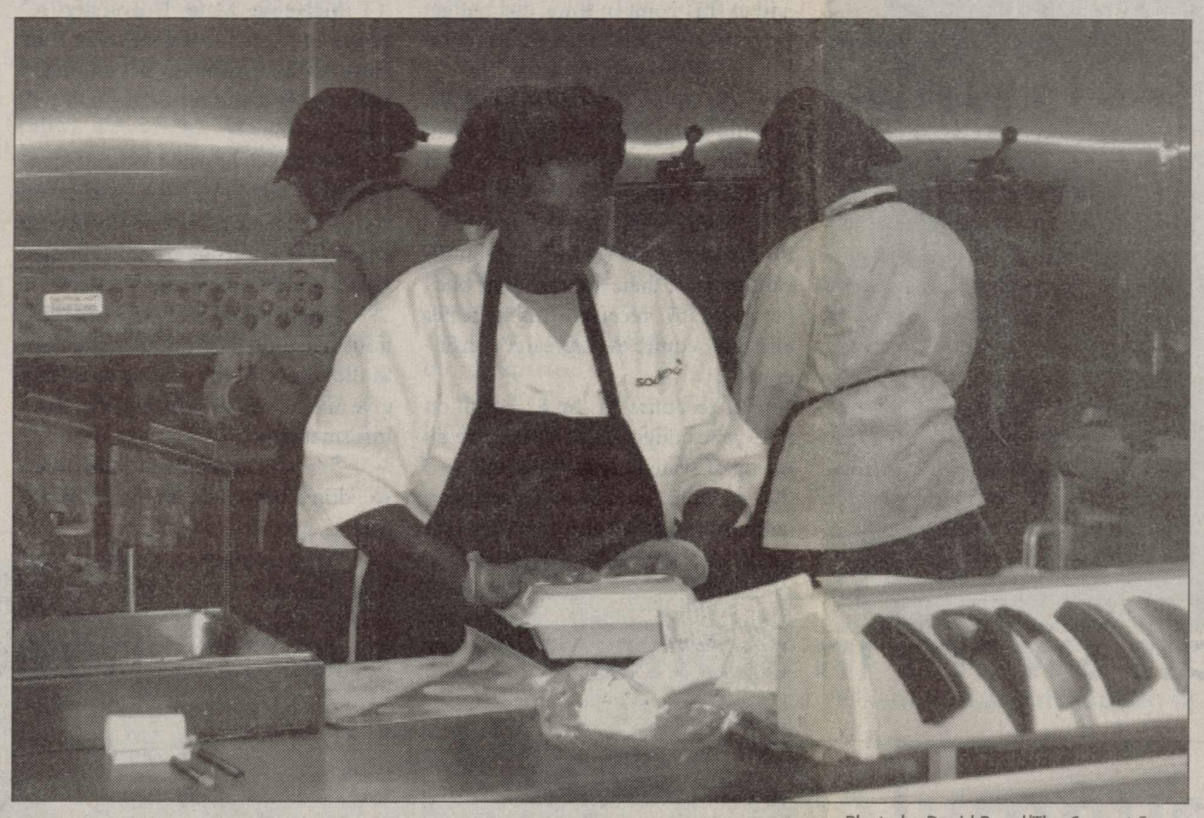


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Sodexo employees have already begun preparing and selling food at the dining location in the Friedman Student Union, though construction is still incomplete.

David Royal
News Editor

Sodexo's Grill 155° reopened in its new location on the bottom floor of the Friedman Student Union on Feb. 25 after missing multiple deadlines for completion.

Originally anticipated to be completed by the end of September, the renovation project to move Grill 155° faced a major delay from leaking plumbing, Sodexo Retail Manager Vance Howe said.

Because the project was delayed for so long, Sodexo made the decision to open Grill 155° for business before it has actually been completed, Howe said.

Howe said Feb. 25 was simply the "soft opening" of the new dining venue and the "grand opening" is still to come at an undecided date.

Although employees are currently preparing and selling food in the building, Grill 155° will not be complete until a few more finishing touches are added, Howe said.

Howe explained that the venue's signs will come in within the next two weeks, and Sodexo will install cable television in the future. To decorate the area, the NSU art department is going to paint a mural on one of the walls, and the athletic department is giving NSU sports memorabilia to hang on the walls.

For the most part, Howe said everything is running smoothly with Grill 155° and that it has served its purpose of eliminating the sense of congestion during lunch.

However, some students feel that all Sodexo did was move the lines into another location.

Rebecca Watson, a senior social work major, said she waited just as long to get her food at Grill 155° as she did before it relocated and that she thinks it is inconvenient to have different foods located in different areas.

"I wish it was all located in the same place," Watson said. "There's really nothing upstairs to eat."

Howe said since the opening, he and his staff have already started to learn what does and does not work.

"We've come a long way since we opened on Wednesday," Howe said.

Sodexo originally used the "heat chute" method, in which workers pre-make food and keep it under a heated lamp until ordered, but realized that too much food was being wasted and stolen.

Also, Howe and his staff realized a need for a ticket system, in which customers receive a ticket with a number on it upon purchase and have their number called out to them when their food is ready.

In reference to the food now being made to order, Howe said he thinks the burgers served at Grill 155° taste better.

Before being moved to its new location, burgers were cooked before the lunch rush and kept in a meat base until ready to be served, which Howe said resulted in the burgers having a "spongy" texture.

Now that burgers are made to order, however, Howe said the taste of the burgers has improved and sales of that product have increased.

Grill 155°'s most popular products by far since reopening, Howe said, have been the Philly cheese steak sandwiches and chicken wings.

Howe and his staff are also serving new products such as onion rings, mozzarella cheese sticks and jalapeño poppers.

Since opening, Grill 155° has sold more than 360 pounds of chicken wings and 300 pints of ice cream, Howe said.

Although business has been efficient downstairs, Howe said there has been an obvious shift in business in Vic's.

Howe said lines are essentially no longer a problem in Vic's, and there is actually seating available in the dining area during lunch, which was a major goal of Sodexo's.

Sophomore business major Cory Hanchey agrees that fewer lines in Vic's have made a pleasant change.

Hanchey explained that he prefers the food in Vic's over Grill 155°, so it is nice not to have to wait in line with those who want food from Grill 155°. He added that because it is less crowded in Vic's dining area, the overall dining experience has improved.

Because business in Vic's is virtually nonexistent after the lunch rush, Howe said Sodexo decided the most efficient plan would be to shut Vic's down after 2 p.m. and leave Grill 155° open until 10 p.m.

Howe said he did receive some complaints about Vic's new hours but said he thinks most of the student body understand the reasoning behind the modification.

"Change is hard, but I think for the majority of people, they are fine with it," Howe said.

According to Howe, students have been taking advantage of Sodexo's extended hours.

"[Grill 155°] is a great place to just hang out, and I think students are starting to catch on," Howe said.

He added that he thinks once the televisions and decorations are put in place, students will feel even more at home in the new venue.

Howe said in the future, Sodexo is looking to make the old C-Store new office space for Sodexo workers and expanding the deli in Vic's.

Diamond Dolls

A look at a new supportive organization for the NSU baseball team.

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Diddly squat

Student argues that grades in college are worthless.

p. 5

Hunt for 1st

Lady Demons basketball team moves to one game out of first place in East Division.

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Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Friday 79°/58°

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Sunday 78°/63°

Monday 81°/63°

Tuesday 77°/54°

Greek Row welcomes new neighbor

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist

After a fire destroyed their original house, then located at the site of Mighty Max Superdog on Second Street, the Kappa Sigma fraternity built a new house on what was planned to be the start of Greek row by Chaplain's Lake in 1988.

Twenty years later, the Kappa Iota Chapter of Phi Mu Fraternity became the first Greek organization to join the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

The current Phi Mu house, located on Greek hill, was purchased in 1970 for $2,000 from the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. Originally composed of two army barracks, the house was never intended to be a permanent location, Emily Horton, Phi Mu chapter adviser, said in her groundbreaking speech.

"Just from the years that I was in the house [1984-1987], we only had one bathroom and sometimes it worked and sometimes it did not," she said. "Can you imagine 85 girls with an on-again/off-again bathroom? Does not make for a happy situation."

The NSU Phi Mu chapter had worked on joining the Kappa Sigma chapter on Chaplain's Lake for years, but it wasn't until this fall when the Phi Mu house was "condemned" that the organization was finally able to see the "ground-breaking" moment, Terri Cunningham, Phi Mu alumna, said.

"Everyone has waited for so long," she said. "Alumni far and wide have been sending money and making donations. They know what it's like to be in that 'ole blue house."

Complete with pink shovels, thanks to RDS Construction that painted shovels pink for the occasion, the Phi Mu chapter joined its alumni and university officials to break ground for its new chapter house.

Cunningham said everyone is so thankful for everybody who helped the organization break ground, including Norman Nassif, the architect; Ronnie Smith, the contractor; Senator Gerald Long; President Randall J. Webb; City Bank; June Byrd, National Housing Director for Phi Mu; and all the other university officials and Phi Mu alumni.

Over the years, the chapter has collected membership fees, totaling more than $160,000 for housing and decorating, and with the assistance of City Bank, seven alumni and parents were able to co-sign the loan to complete the financing for the new house.

"Everyone needs their alumni," Cunningham said. "Every organization needs their community support."

In addition to working on the plans for the house, the Phi Mu alumni chapter worked with the girls during rush, provided houses to host events in and cooked for them on occasion, Cunningham said.

The alumni chapter intends on continuing fundraising and assisting the girls in furnishing and decorating the new house.

The 3,270 sq. ft. lodge-style house will feature Acadian architecture with a large meeting room, a large kitchen, two bathrooms—one of which comprising three stalls, an office and a sitting/living room area.

The house will provide a home for weekly meetings, sisterhoods throughout the week, storage, a place to study and a place to just hang out, Phi Mu President Rachel McCalister said.

The organization hopes to have the house built by the upcoming fall rush, McCalister, junior secondary business manager, said.

This past year, Phi Mu chose not to use the old house on Greek hill because it was ruined after the two hurricanes. But with the assistance of the university, the organization held weekly meetings and rush in Friedman Student Union. The office of Greek life in South Hall also opened their doors for the girls and allowed them to use their office to communicate with the girls throughout rush.

"Everyone bent over backward to find us a place to meet," McCalister said. "We can't thank them enough."

With the addition of roads, parking, electricity, water, phone lines and sewage over the past two years, the university hopes other organizations join Phi Mu, Kappa Sigma and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries to fulfill the purpose of the street, President Randall J. Webb said.

"It is an ideal location," Webb said. "It is a good idea to have a well constructed facility they can call their home…symbolic of that kind of construction."



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Phi Mu members chant in celebration after releasing pink balloons into the air at the groundbreaking ceremony.

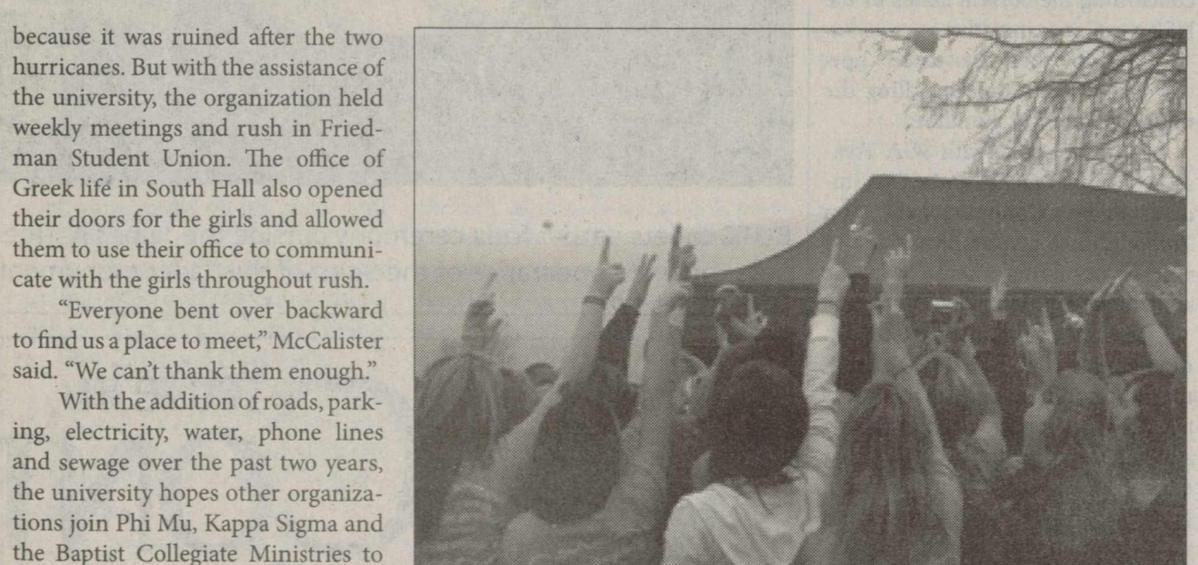


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Dean of Students Chris Maggio welcomes students, faculty and supporters to the Phi Mu groundbreaking ceremony at Greek Row on Feb. 17, 2009.

David Royal
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ULS reveals worst-case scenario, 28 percent cut

David Royal
News Editor

As the University of Louisiana System continues to gain a better understanding of the magnitude of the budget cuts it will be facing in the next fiscal year, its educational institutions, which include NSU, are beginning to take different measures to ease the situation.

Although a specific monetary amount has not been given yet, the ULS has provided each of the higher educational system's university with a worst-case scenario of a 28 percent cut in each university's budget.

ULS President Randy Moffett also informed NSU President Randall J. Webb that the university's best-case scenario for next fiscal year will be a 15 percent cut – amounting to $6,976,793.

NSU's worst-case scenario of a 28 percent cut amounts to $12, 575,830.

Webb explained that all the universities in the system are receiving the same proportional budget cuts based on the 28 percent scale.

Depending on its initial expected budget, however, a university could lose more or less than another university in the ULS.

For example, the University of Louisiana at Monroe President James Cofer Sr. released a message to his colleagues on Feb. 9 informing them that their expected budget cuts could range from about $8 million to $14 million, which resembles NSU's expected cuts.

In the case of Louisiana Tech University, its budget could expect to lose a significant amount more than NSU.

In minutes from a Louisiana Tech University Senate meeting, the university's president, Dan Reneau, informed the senate that if their university does in fact receive a 28 percent cut, then their initial budget of $62 million will be reduced by $20 million.

Webb said now that he and his staff is aware of the two scenarios, they have already begun to make tentative plans.

"We've explored several options, and at this point in time, our budget is now under consideration in Baton Rouge," Webb said.

He added, however, that until a specific monetary amount has been provided, definite plans of action cannot be installed.

Webb explained that the cuts for the next fiscal year will be significantly worse than the mid-year budget cuts NSU received this semester and will require even greater consideration.

In response to the $2.1 million mid-year budget cuts, NSU froze all hiring of available positions, reduced the number of adjunct professors and cut roughly $200,000 from the contract with Red River Sanitors.

Webb said next fiscal year, depending on the severity of the cuts, these numbers could possibly double.

Other schools have already begun making changes to prepare for the cuts.

McNeese State University recently informed its residents of Pine Haven, the university's designated housing, that the residence hall will close in June.

An MSU housing official confirmed by telephone that Pine Haven is closing due to the university having a lack of funds from expected budget cuts to pay for the needed repairs.

When asked if NSU's married housing could face a similar situation in the future, Webb said he could not give an answer until he is given more information.

"It's very difficult to plan when we don't have information," Webb said.

Webb explained, however, that more information will be available around the end of March, which is when the ULS Board of Supervisors will meet to make recommendations for each university.

He added that he and his staff will have a better idea of what to expect once the ULS is informed of how much money will be allocated from the recently passed Congressional stimulus package to higher education.

At this point, Webb recommended that everyone just sit back and wait.

"I think it's best that we all be patient and see how everything pans out in Baton Rouge," Webb said.

Webb ensured that with whatever changes are to come next fiscal year, students will be the university's top priority, but until then he said we should keep in mind the wise words of Yogi Berra.

"'It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future.'"

SGA televises inside glimpse of interaction with officials

David Royal
News Editor

Student Government Association President Cody Bourque hosted the first segment of "SGA Straight Talk" Tuesday afternoon in the Ora G. Williams television studio.

Televised Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Bourque said the purpose of the show is to give students and the Natchitoches community a glimpse of how the SGA interacts with NSU officials.

In "SGA Straight Talk," Bourque meets with NSU and SGA officials and has a formal conversation about important on-campus issues at hand.

Bourque said it is vital for him and other members of the SGA to deal with officials on a regular basis in order to serve the students properly, and he said he felt it is a good idea to make students aware of this.

"When I go into a meeting with an official, I look at it with a business-first mindset, and it is the same way you will see me on TV," Bourque said.

In yesterday's segment, Bourque first spoke with Dean of Students Chris Maggio and Service Learning Coordinator Steve Gruesbeck.

Gruesbeck answered questions concerning the current status of the NSU Go Green initiative.

Maggio then discussed how university officials are handling the mid-year cut of $2.1 million.

Bourque spoke with SGA Treasurer Lauren Michel and SGA Student Affairs Commissioner Jason Thibodeaux to give an illustration of what is occurring internally in the student government.

Michel primarily focused on discussing certain fees that the organization is addressing. Currently, the SGA is assessing the need of raising student fees to create an NSU band enhancement fee, organizational grants for service learning events and an undergraduate scholarly journal.

Then, Bourque gave Thibodeaux, who intends to run for SGA president this spring, an opportunity to briefly discuss his platform and plans for the upcoming election.

Maggio said Bourque has his full support behind the show.

"Cody and I have discussions like this in my office all the time – formally and informally – so it's great that students finally get to see what it's all about," Maggio said. "'SGA Straight Talk' gives people an idea of how active their student government truly is."

Maggio added that the show, which is roughly 30 minutes long, could stand to be longer.

"We could even expand the length of the show because there are so many questions and topics to cover," Maggio said.

Bourque said the show is planned to be monthly, but because there could possibly be an actual electoral race for the SGA president position, "SGA Straight Talk" will probably host the presidential debates in a couple of weeks.

Bourque said a definite topic for a future segment will be the university's plan for the next fiscal year's budget cuts.

ROTC reveals sword in stone, monument honors cadets

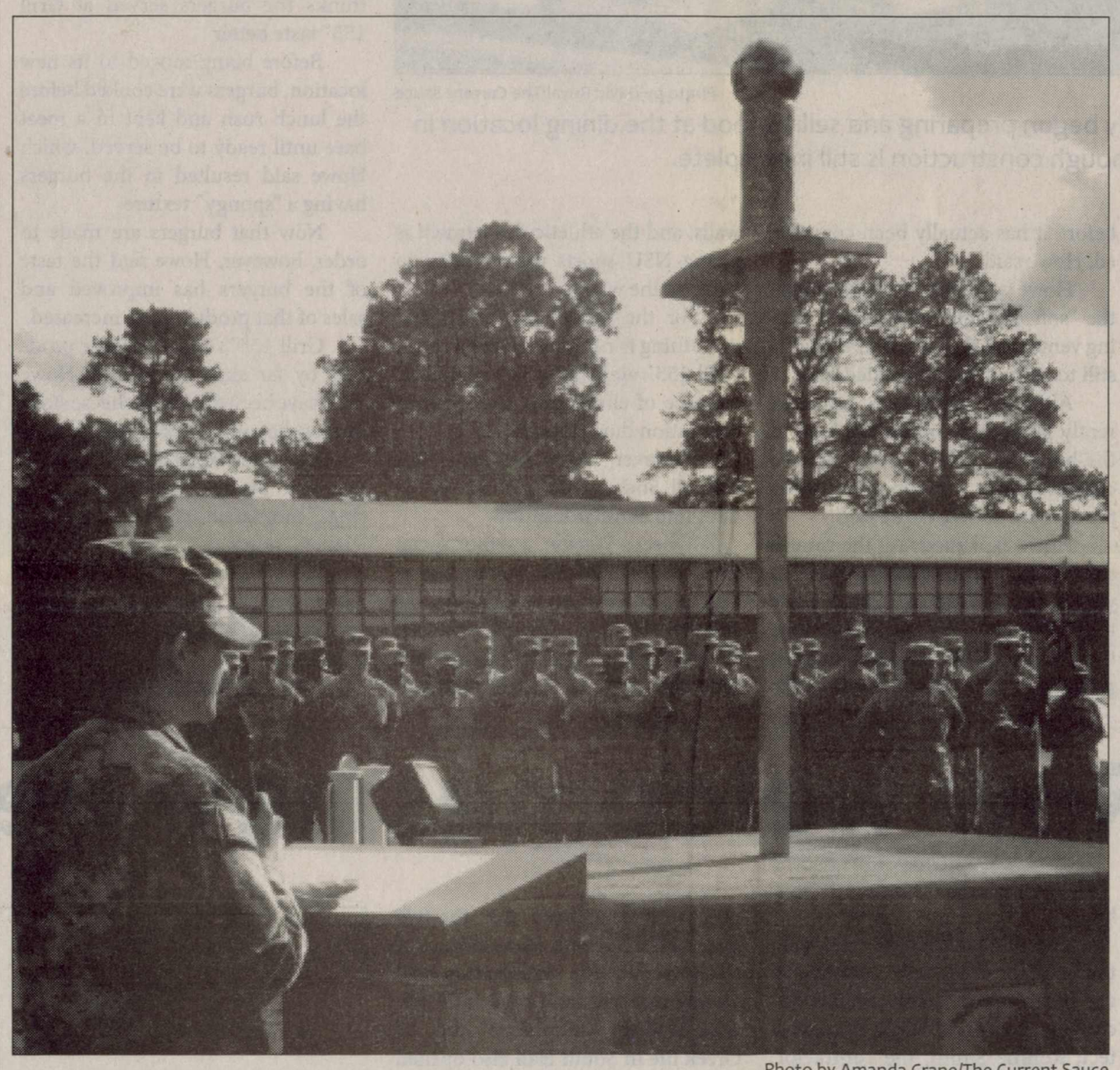


Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce

ROTC cadets gather for a ceremony outside the James A. Noe Armory Thursday and witness the first appearance of the Spirit of the Cadet monument, designed by Becky Edwards.

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

The Army ROTC Demon Battalion unveiled its Spirit of the Cadet park on Thursday in honor of the 60th anniversary of the NSU Army ROTC and NSU's 125th anniversary.

The Spirit of the Cadet park was created in honor of the cadets who have served in the past, those who currently serve and those who will join the Demon Battalion.

The Spirit of the Cadet park is located in the front of the James A. Noe Armory. It features a monument designed by senior studio art major Becky Edwards with contributions by Lt. Col. Lee Pennington, professor of military science. The monument is positioned in front of two artillery cannons and three flagpoles, which will display the American, Louisiana state and Army flags.

The monument began as a merger project for the ROTC and art department, Pennington said. In the fall semester, sculpture instructor Matt Deford's sculpture class, of which Pennington was a student, was given the assignment of designing the monument. Cadets and alumni chose the winning design, which was displayed among other mock models of the monument.

Of the five models and proposals submitted, Becky Edwards' design stood out for its simple, yet appealing representation of the Demon Battalion.

"We were given some information on the ROTC program, but I researched it further and finally simplified everything that I learned into one final design," Edwards said.

Edwards' design, the sword in the stone, represents the willingness to bear arms in defense of the nation. The sword is engraved with the symbolic NSU Columns and the stone is emblazoned with the ROTC and regimental emblems. The sword, which is permanently embedded in the stone, is symbolic of the cadet's permanent connection to their heritage in the Army ROTC.

Once cadets and alumni chose the winning design, Deford and Pennington began working on the monument. They completed the handle – which was made on campus in the art department – first. Under the Deford's guidance, Pennington worked with clay, wax and bronze to complete the handle.

"When you're working with molten bronze, it's definitely not a one-man project," Pennington said. "Matt was there to help with the pour because it was such a large project."

Individual contributions and donated materials funded the monument. The NSU Art Department donated bronze for the sword handle, Atlas Metals funded the hilt, Signs and Banners contributed to the signs on the base of the monument and Rocky Carney of Magnolia Steel constructed the blade.

Though the weather before the ceremony cast shadows over the park, the spirit of the Demon Battalion was not dampened by gusty winds and cloudy skies.

NSU Cadet Commander Antionette Selby led the cadets into formation. Pennington welcomed attendees and guests of honor, including Sen. Gerald Long and his wife, Rose, Robert Crew and his wife, President Randall J. Webb and the entire Demon regiment.

A moment of silence followed and Cadet Philip Duffy led the invocation. LSUS Cadet Commander Cameron Player led the cadets in the cadet creed, and the colors were raised for the first time on battalion grounds along with the traditional firing of the cannon.

As winds picked up and the sun began to shine through the clouds, NSU President Randall Webb and Regimental Chief of Staff retired Lt. Col. Truman Maynard finally unveiled the monument.

"I appreciate what they've done in the past, present and what they will continue to do in the future," President Randall J. Webb said. "We all have a reason to be especially proud of the men and women in our ROTC program."

After cadets lowered the colors, Pennington presented the flag to Executive Assistant to the President Robert Crew. Cadets performed the NSU Alma Mater as a gift to Webb, accompanied by an ensemble of Demon band members. Cadets sang the Army song. NSU Alumnus Vernon Love accompanied the cadets on his bagpipe.

For Pennington, the ceremony and unveiling of the Spirit of the Cadet park only reminds him of his love for this country and for the cadets of the NSU Demon Battalion.

"For me, it was a moment where my sense of patriotism came to the surface," Pennington said. "To be able to raise our American flag on our battalion soil is a great honor, and it is a privilege to be commander of this outstanding group of men and women at Northwestern."



Argus winners

Poetry:		
1st	Jeff McAlpin	"Yearbook"
Prose:		
1st	Andrew Shirley	"Barry Trumble"
Visual Arts:		
1st	Amber Lee	"Triumph of Set"

To find out who else won, check out the Argus this spring.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
March 4, 2009

NAACP shows off talent

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

In celebration of the 100th year of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the members here at NSU held a talent show Feb. 18 in Magale Recital Hall.

One of many events planned for the celebratory week outlined by the NAACP, the talent show began with a performance by the Lifted Voices choir. It featured eight students who expressed their talents through song, dance and instruments, and their performances were judged.

Comedian and host of the show Big Boy entertained the crowd and opened the stage for the first performers – junior psychology major Malvin Hearns and sophomore biology major Norris Evans – who rapped and sang an original song entitled "Dare to Dream." They received 10.5 out of 15 stars.

Next up was Kristie Ambrose who sang and pulled ahead to first place with 13 stars. Marcus Rim ushered in a second rap performance with "The Struggle."

The surprise of the night occurred when David Sylvester was called out of the audience to the stage where he sang the famous gospel tune "I Won't Complain" made popular by Reverend Paul Jones.

"It was really special that he [Sylvester] sang that song," Mildred Adams, a community attendee of the show, said. "I attended Rev. Jones' church one time. I was sad when he died. That young man brought the Rev. Jones back to life almost."

Next, freshman music major Roosevelt Porter executed the first and only dance routine.

"I knew my performance would come as somewhat of a surprise. Pop lock dancing is not as popular as it used to be," Porter said.

Freshman music performance major Jay Guice performed Jamie Foxx's ballad "Overdose." And last but not least, freshman music performance major Tory Bias stole the show with his rendition of John Legend's "Everybody Knows." Bias received a near-perfect score of 14 out of 15 stars and was named the winner of the show.

"I don't think anyone was expecting that from me," Bias said. "I surprised them, though. I like being the unexpected."

After Bias' performance, the Lifted Voices choir drew the show to a close and Bias was pronounced winner of the show.

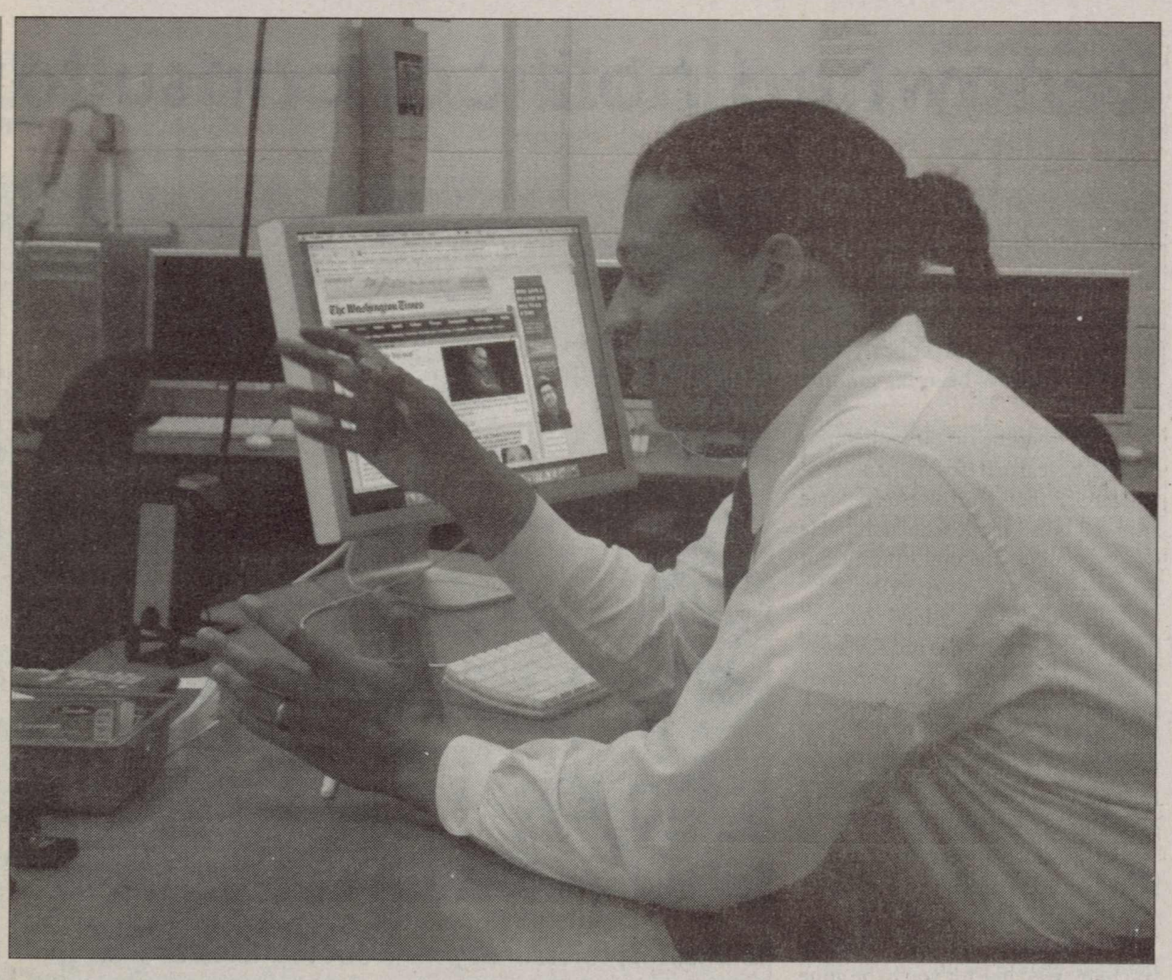


Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce
William Broussard leads an open discussion in his Public Relations Writing class.

Alumnus-turned-professor broadens student horizons

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Through years of nurturing and years of wisdom, NSU has produced eminent professionals who contribute to the world outside of college.

William Broussard, Ph.D., a native of Crowley, La., started right at Nothwestern State University and is now the associate director of athletics and assistant professor of journalism and public relations.

Broussard has a Bachelor of Arts in English with an emphasis on professional writing from the Louisiana Scholars' College at NSU, and a Master and Doctorate in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Arizona.

Among many things, people enjoy his love of metaphors, which makes his storytelling entertaining and interesting.

Some of his favorite hobbies include reading, writing, playing, composing music on his guitar and weightlifting.

In his spare time he also enjoys reading books by his favorite authors, such as Amiri Baraka, Noam Chomsky, Dave Zirin and Gore Vidal.

While attending NSU, Broussard played varsity football and was a team captain, and he was involved with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

He routinely represented the university at civic organizational meetings and visited with local youth groups.

Other than athletics, Broussard said likes to put his time toward charity work.

"I consider myself a professional philanthropist, as my full-time job at NSU is to secure funding – including cash and gift-in-kind donations and volunteerism – to support the efforts of the Demons' NCAA Division I athletics program," Broussard said. "Additionally, I am involved with the Lions Club, have been a donor to the NSU Alumni and NSU Athletic Associations for five years and routinely sponsor local fundraisers, particularly through volunteerism."

Besides being an inductee in the College Football Hall of Fame as a National Scholar Athlete in 1999, he is also a published essayist, award-winning teacher and administrator.

Broussard identifies himself as still being a student because people who are still learning to approach things differently than people who think they know it all.

"Mr. Broussard is a very great teacher and he helps to expand your mind to new horizons, and he never runs out of fresh ideas and activities to keep our journalistic mind wandering," sophomore journalism major Brian Welch said.

Like other educators, Broussard enjoys teaching and interacting with students.

"I enjoy engaging diverse student groups in critical thinking and writing exercises creates people who are capable of being lifelong learners and engaged citizens – and increases my ability to be a better learner and citizen, as well. This is what we are charged with, minimally, as educators," Broussard said in an e-mail.

Students like Roderick Wilson relate to Broussard in his Public Relations Writing Class.

"What I like about taking Dr. Broussard's classes is how they can be easily related to things outside the classroom," Wilson, senior hospitality, management and tourism major, said.

Broussard feels as though his outlook on life is neither a naïve optimist nor a hopeless pessimist. He feels as if he is a textbook post-positivist and believes all knowledge is constructed socially and is contingent upon negotiations between peoples, which he said is his primary motivation to be an educator.

In an e-mail, Broussard gave a few encouraging words to his students.

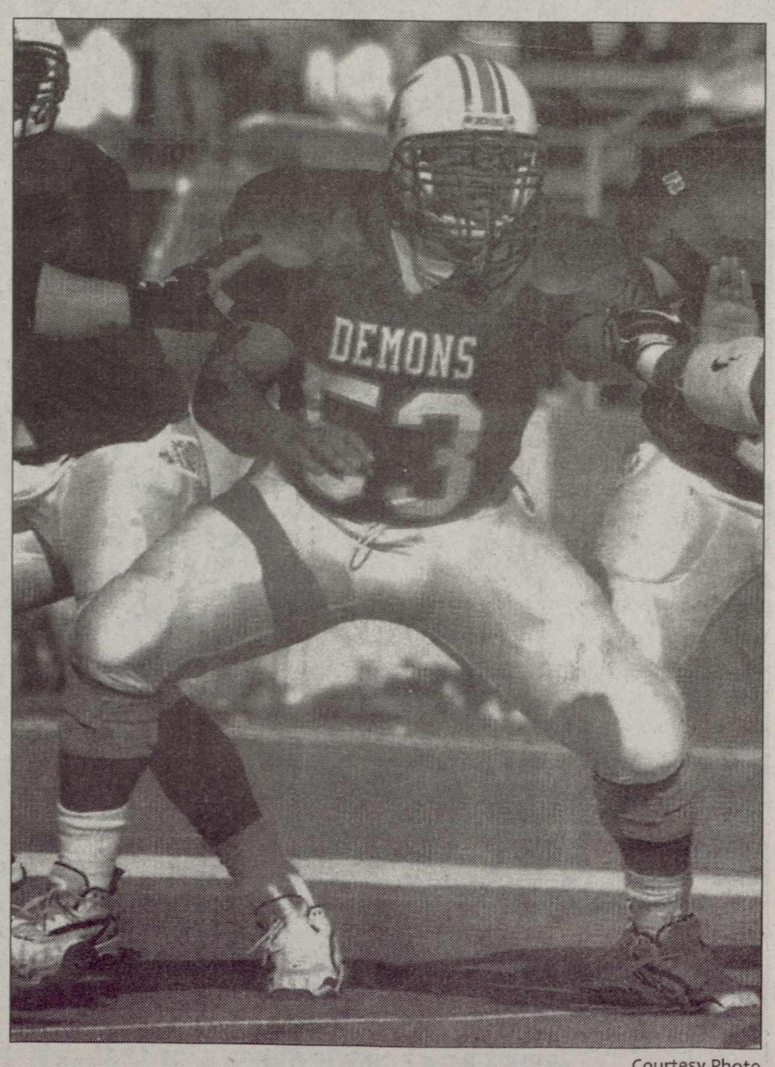
"I'd encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity, as their ability to enter the next phases of their lives as thoughtful, reflective and capable thinkers and learners will, in an ideal world, dictate their happiness thereafter," Broussard said.

Although Broussard produces many things he is proud of, he is most proud of his dissertation, "One Foot In: Student-Athlete Advocacy and Social Movement Rhetoric in the Margins of American College Athletics," and he said he had many reasons to be proud.

"Not only because it was a project more than a year in the making, but because it was the sum of my athletic and administrative careers up to that point," Broussard said. "Hopefully, it will be the subject of my first book."

Broussard is looking forward to a bright future.

"Before I die, I'd love very much to be able to write a $1 million check to a favorite charity, write a book about my life (and leave it to Hollywood to decide if its movie-worthy), live outside the United States for an extended period and visit Africa," Broussard said.



Courtesy Photo
Former NSU center William Broussard (53) works as journalism professor and assistant athletic director on campus.

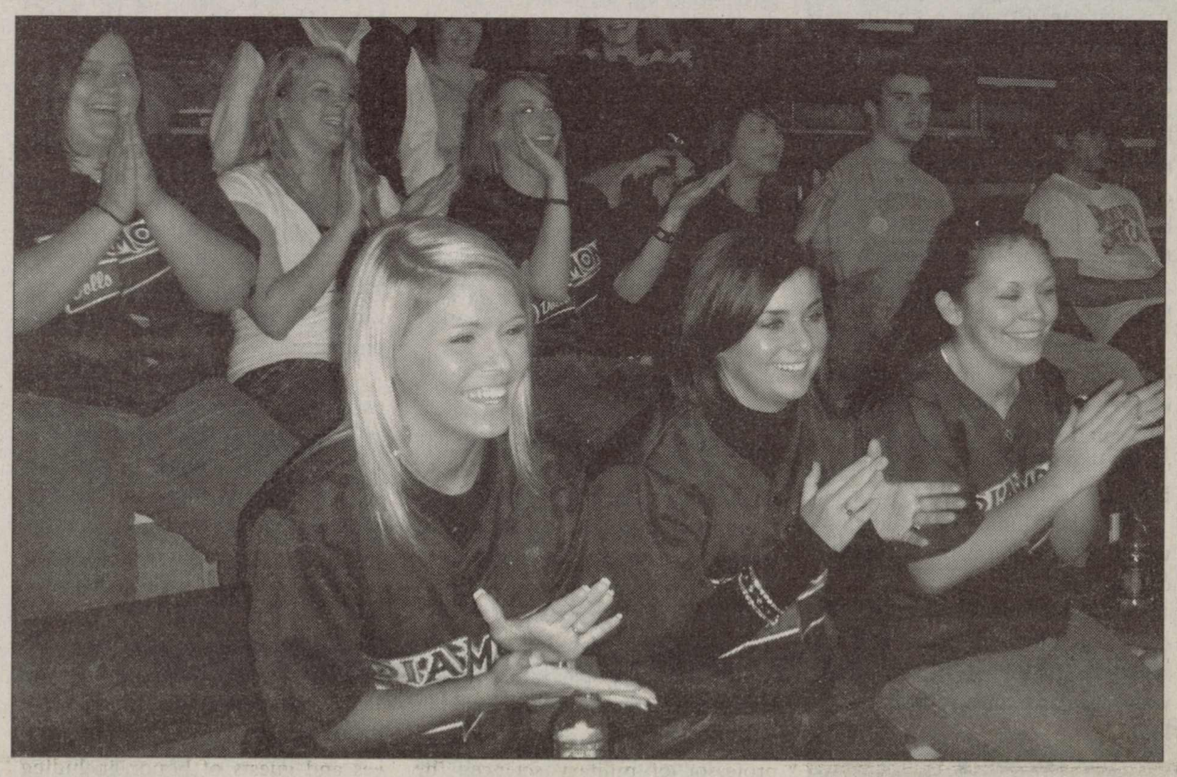


Photo by Leigh Guidry/The Current Sauce
NSU Diamond Dolls support the Demon baseball team against Houston Baptist University.

Diamonds are a guy's best friend

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

The NSU Diamond Dolls stepped up to plate this semester to bring out school spirit from within the university's baseball fans.

"[We] are a group of ladies who are a social support group supporting the NSU baseball team," President Meagen Vasseur, sophomore business administration major, said. "Our program hopes to spread school spirit, enhance the atmosphere of NSU baseball and help encourage our baseball players and coaches."

The Diamond Dolls are not new to the university, Vasseur said.

"They were around several years ago, but they were not very active or successful," she said.

Members of the organization spend their time encouraging the Demon baseball players and uplifting the spirits of its fans. Before the games, members give the players treats and notes to wish them good luck.

"Our hope is to let the team know that they always have support and people who believe in them," Vasseur said. "Confidence and support can be some of the most influential things for an athlete, and we hope that these two components will help each player play to the best of his ability and, therefore, produce wins."

Lacy Clark, junior general studies major and game day committee head, explained that the Diamond Dolls interact with the crowd in order to get them pumped up during the game.

They do many promotions, including Demon Deal or No Deal, Heads or Tails, and Mini-Bike races.

"It's up to us to get the crowd into the promotions, and we also answer any question the fans might have about the game of baseball or the Demon baseball team," Clark said.

In addition to boosting morale and confidence of the players, the Diamond Dolls work hard to help them stay focused while on the field.

"During the games we also get foul balls and have bat girls on the field, so the guys can be completely focused on the game," Clark said.

The Diamond Dolls are in the process of becoming a recognized student organization on campus, and any baseball fanatics who are interested in joining must attend the informational meeting in the fall, where they will receive an application that must be filled out and turned in by a deadline.

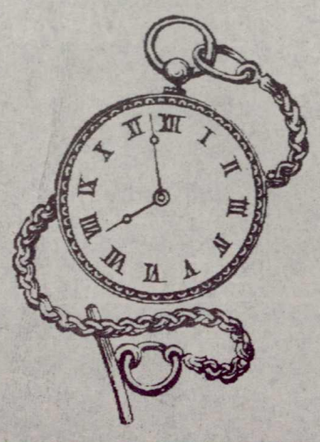
The applicants then selected will go through a series of interviews with the president, vice president, Diamond Doll advisers and baseball coaches.

Those selected must have a GPA of 2.5 and be able to pay the fee of $35.

Fast Fact

- 54 percent of Americans are concerned about the level of stress in their daily lives.
- 62 percent of Americans say work has a significant impact on stress levels
- 73 percent of Americans name money as the number one factor that affects their stress level.
- Increasing numbers of children, teenagers and college students report feeling under stress.

Courtesy of American Psychological Association 2004survey, American Institute of Stress, National Center



Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 8.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
March 4, 2009

Renowned political consultant returns

Spencer Pearson
Sauce Reporter

Raymond Strother's career and life have been full of twists and turns, but his honesty and ethical principles have always been his guiding factors.

After sending out several applications, he learned (from a handwritten letter) that Northwestern State awarded him a track scholarship. He was grateful for the opportunity, but his career at NSU was short-lived.

His frankness guided his actions early on, as he did not shy away from controversy. After demonstrating against the John Birch Society on campus, Strother was kicked out of NSU. He recounts the event cheerfully now, and even laughs about his exchange in the president's office.

"Mr. Strother, you're not happy being here," President Kyser said.

"I'm very happy being here."

"Well, we're not happy having you here. We'd like for you to be gone by Saturday."

And with that, Strother headed down to Louisiana State University.

From there, his career bloomed as he became head of the LSU student newspaper, and then he got a full time job working for the Associated Press. Gov. John McKeithen soon offered him a job, beginning his career in politics.

He then started his own firm in Louisiana that grew and made its way to Washington, D.C., where it served the top tier in politics. His successful career includes political consulting work with Al Gore, Mary Landrieu, Bill Clinton and Russell Long, just to name a few.

Mary Brocato, now a professor at NSU, knew Strother during his political career and commented on his honesty as a political consultant.

"He will not accept any [political candidates] that he does not believe in the same things they believe in."

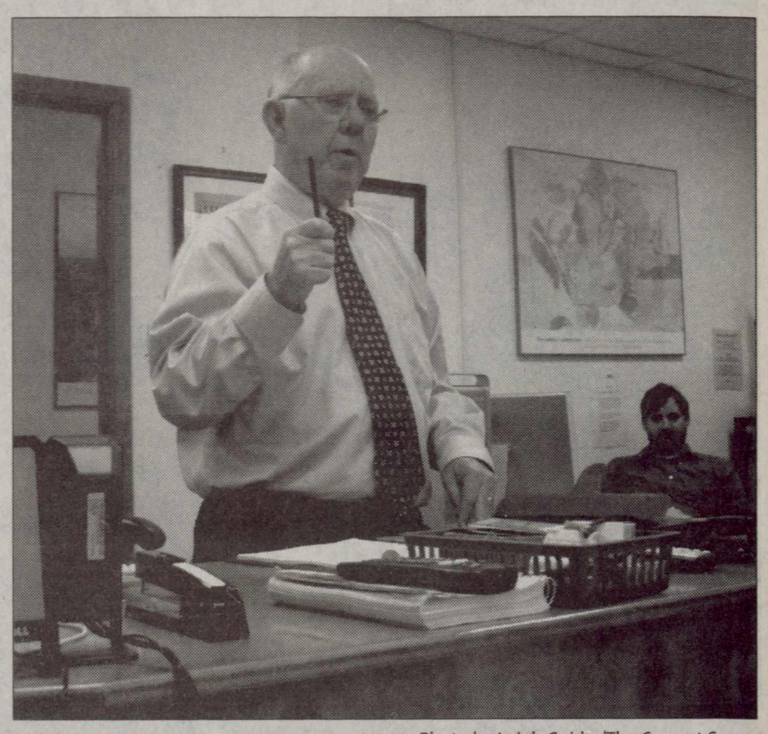


Photo by Leigh Guidry/The Current Sauce

Journalism professor Raymond Strother lectures in his Special Problems In Mass Communications class.

In a field like political consulting, Brocato thinks this honesty is a rare trait.

"Usually reporters do not like political consultants, because they spin things. Raymond is not like that. If he cannot tell a reporter something, he will simply say 'I can't answer that," Brocato said.

During these years, he was asked multiple times to come speak to the students at NSU. Each time he would decline. Running a political consulting firm did not warrant large amounts of free time, and he thought he felt no close connection with the school that expelled him.

It wasn't until Mary Brocato called him that he changed his mind.

"She was an old friend of mine," Strother said. "She had been press secretary of Gov. McKeithen… so she called and insisted that I come down."

Even with years of experience in the world of politics, Brocato said Strother has maintained his honesty.

"He will tell you exactly what he thinks. He will not compromise on his ethical principles, and I admire that tremendously in him."

After being convinced to come give a speech, it wasn't long until he was convinced to come teach at NSU as an Erbon W. and Marie Wise Endowed Chair.

He is now in his second semester of teaching at Northwestern State and is pleased to do so.

"What I try to offer is to bring the professional and the academic together... what I'm hoping I can do is show students that what they're doing in education is a direct path to their future," he said.

The students in his class are also excited about the opportunity.

Sarah Cramer, a junior journalism major, is taking one of Strother's mass communications classes.

"Given his background, Mr. Strother is the teacher we, as writers, want to impress. He gives us some pretty tough assignments, but he's also helping us to become better writers," Cramer said.

Cramer, like many students, is excited about the work in the class. Some activities planned include producing radio commercials, TV commercials and magazine ads.

His honesty is what many students admire in him, but a certain sense of anxiety stems from his straightforward nature. Students all know that if they write sub-par papers, he will tell them.

Cody Bourque, a junior public relations major in the class, said the most nerve-racking aspect of the class is waiting for Strother's feedback on assignments. He added that the frank and upfront feedback may cause some anxiety, but it ultimately benefits the student.

"His honesty is extremely apparent when you get your paper back and it says 'I expected more out of you' or 'you can do better.' That drives you to do the best that you can in that class," Bourque said.

Strother thinks of teaching as a way to pass on his talents to help others succeed.

"A student who comes out of the class with a little bit better skill and succeeds, that's kind of like a statue with my name on the bottom," he said.

After two semesters of teaching class, he has more than a few statues to account for.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Junior health and exercise science major Eddie Higginbotham hosts the Price Is Right event, Tuesday night.

Students win big at SAB 'Price Is Right'

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

The Student Activities Board gave students a glimpse of the ever-fluctuating economy last night with "The Price Is Right," an event modeled after the beloved television show.

SAB Secretary and Treasurer Eddie Higginbotham took command of the microphone at Tuesday's event, channeling the enthusiasm and charisma of Bob Barker. Higginbotham, a junior health and exercise science major, said he thought of Barker while he was in the spotlight.

"I grew up watching the show, so it was easy," Higginbotham said.

Some of SAB's female members donned black dresses and acted as "Bob Barker's Beauties" for the evening. Higginbotham called several members of the student body up to the A. A. Fredericks main stage to participate in the game.

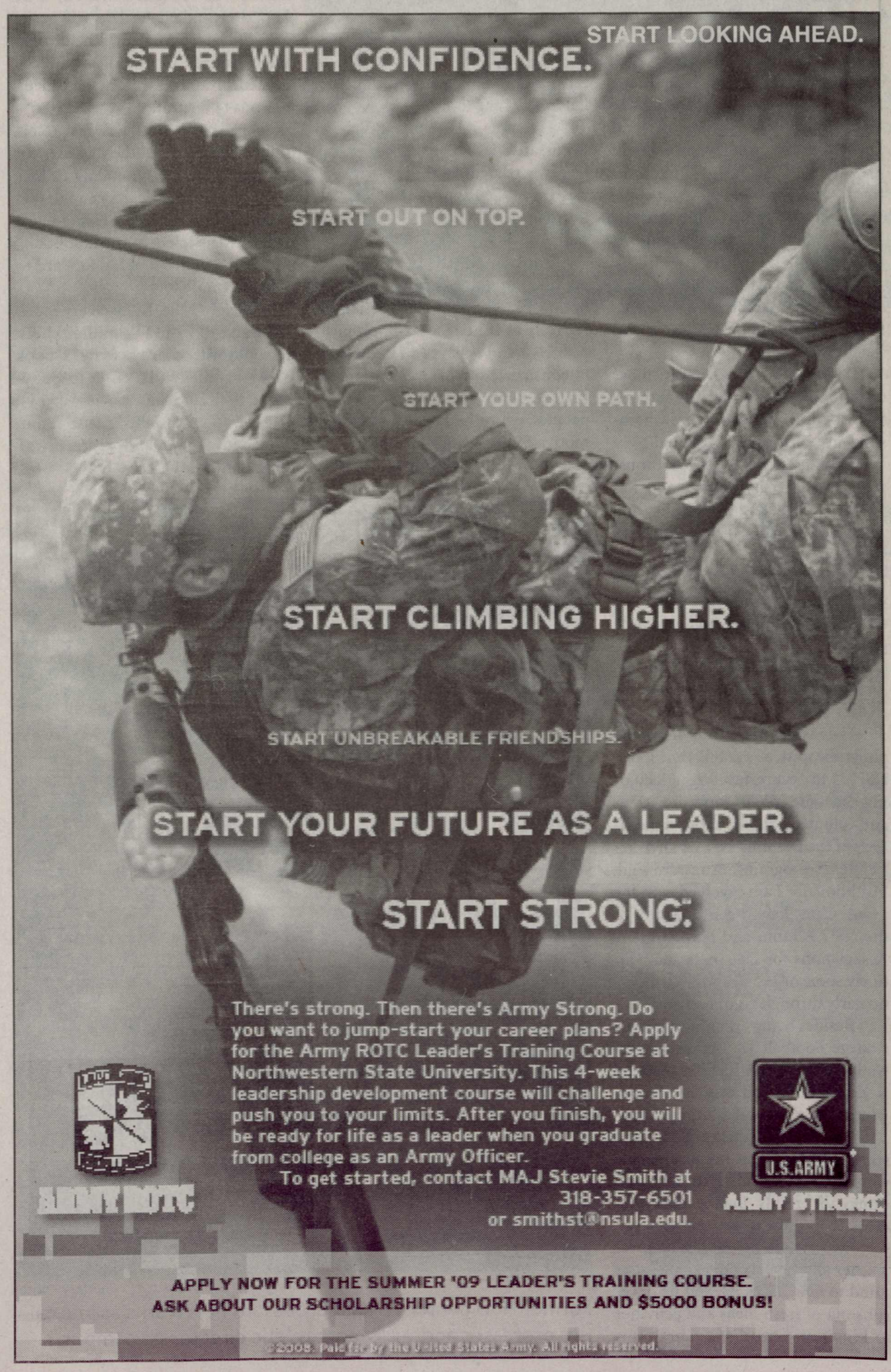
Students screamed their suggestions to freshman psychology major Dameisha Anthony when she got her chance to play "The Price Is Right."

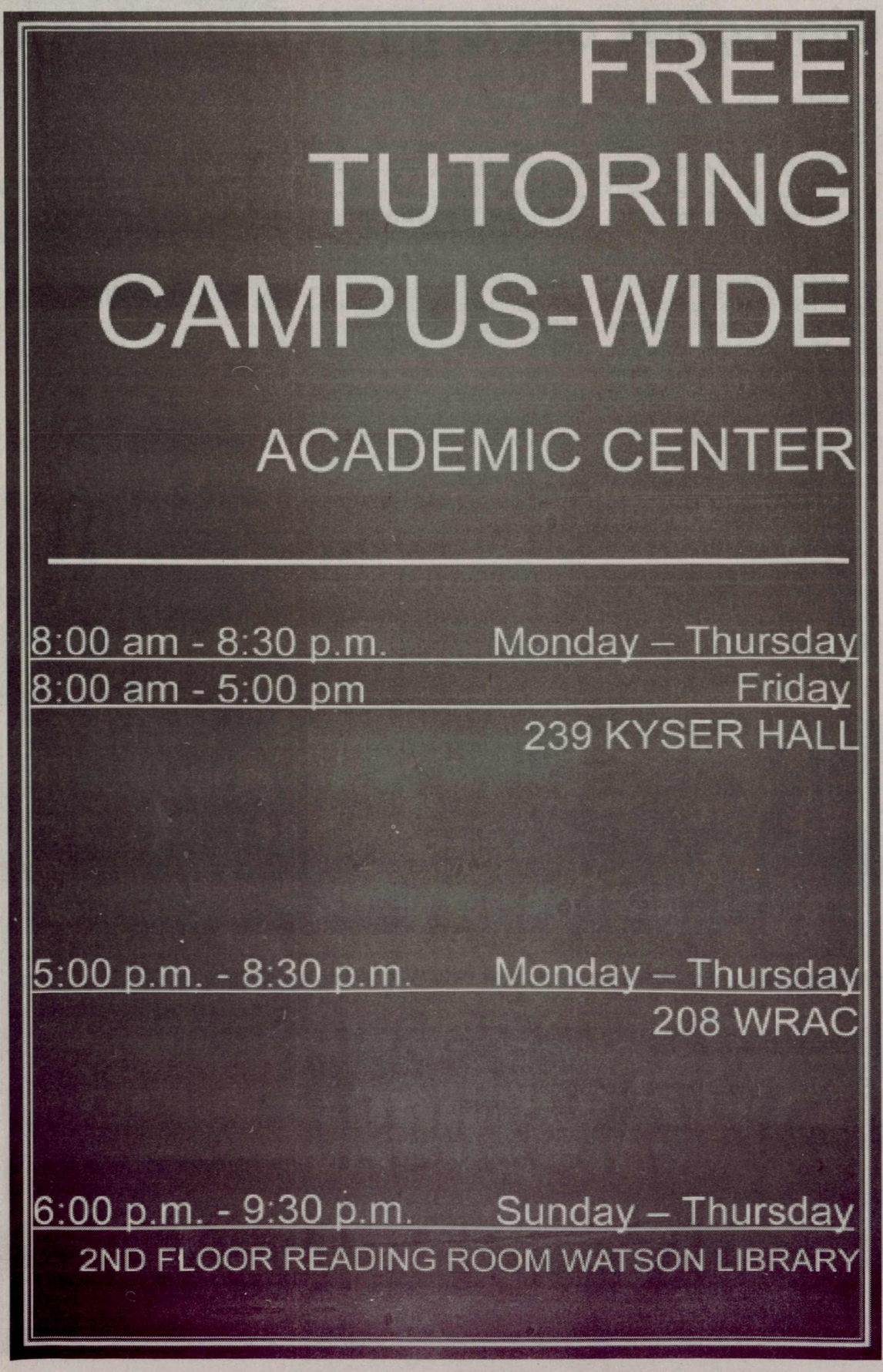
Higginbotham asked Anthony to match three prices – $1.99, $3.69 and $1.50 – with three grocery items – a loaf of bread, a box of Hamburger Helper and a package of macaroni and cheese. Students shouted in protest when Anthony almost matched the price $3.69 with the box of Hamburger Helper. She assigned the highest price to the bread at the audience's suggestion, but she was right the first time. In the end, though, Anthony went home with a new DVD player and a box of The Cheesiest.

Contestant Jordan Higginbotham, a sophomore business administration major, attempted to guess the value of a George Foreman grill and was just three cents away from winning the prize.

Hannah Thomas, a freshman psychology major, won several prizes at "The Price Is Right." First, she won an mp3 player, a bottle of Fabuloso cleaner, cleaning wipes and Febreze. Later in the game, Thomas guessed that a large collection of NSU gear – including a T-shirt, pants, a doormat, socks, binders, a bumper sticker, certificates for massages, folders and a planner – cost $250. The actual price was closer to $150, but Thomas won the entire package.

Thomas said she enjoyed the event and thought SAB should do it again next year.





Be Frank: Do not pass go, do not collect $200

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



I always hated playing Monopoly with my dad when I was a kid.

He always knew the secret to the game and would always win.

Not only can I be a sore loser, but also, my dad had his own sore-winner moments.

The thing about Monopoly is it never mattered that I had the boardwalk and the utilities and the railroads. My dad always had something better.

He knew how to build houses and hotels. Eventually he bought the whole street, and before I knew it, I was nearing bankruptcy hoping I received the "go to jail" card.

Life is like Monopoly.

Life is a game overflowing with rules. It doesn't matter how smart you are or how pretty you look in photographs or how talented you might be.

It is all about how you can learn the rules and use them to your advantage.

This same game is seen in the scholastic setting with the application of grades.

Grades do not measure your intelligence.

They do not determine how smart you are, but yet they are used as such.

Students and teachers become overwhelmed with grades as a measurement.

But all they really determine is how well you played the classroom version of Monopoly.

It doesn't matter if you truly know more than your classmates on the given subject.

It boils down to how well you take the test.

Students fear midterms. It is the time to tell if you have absorbed the knowledge needed to pass the benchmark exam.

It is not important what you can do with the knowledge you attained during the semester, but rather how well you can bubble it in on a scantron or spit it out verbatim.

The ultimate, only goal is to make an A.

The funny thing, As don't mean anything outside the academic setting.

Once you leave the boundaries of your scholastic walls, no one cares if you were a straight-A student or if you got the highest grade in algebra.

No one looks at how well you test, but rather what you do with the material you learned.

The only hope is that you retained that material and didn't memorize it for the sheer purpose of answering a question on a test.

But when all you are expected to do is regurgitate a fact or a statistic, then most students simply study the material required to get the grade instead of knowing the application to secure the information for a lifetime—or at least past the semester.

And what are worse are the teachers who only teach to pass a test.

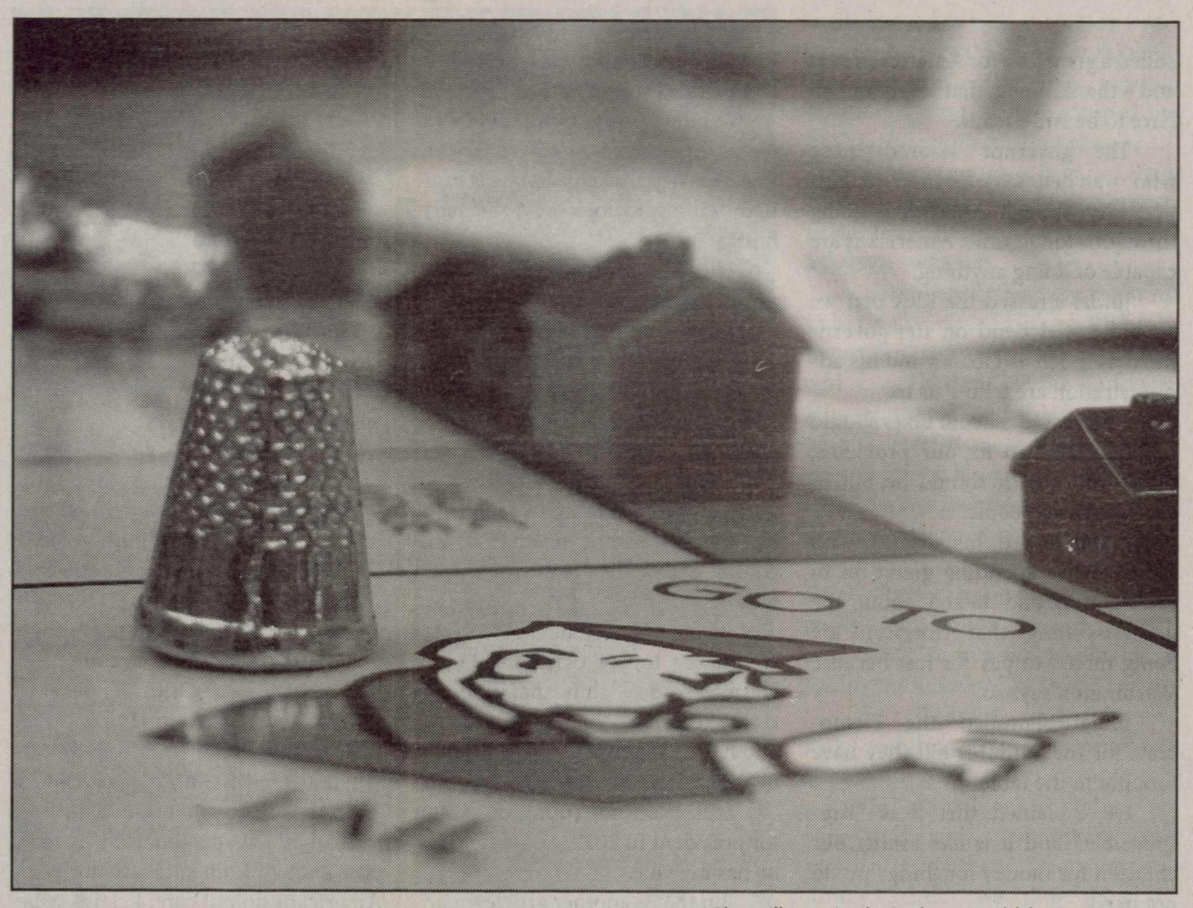


Photo Illustration by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce

History is filled with notable important figures who could never figure out how to properly bubble the correct answer, but they turned out more than OK.

They turned out amazing.

IncreaseBrainPower.com is filled with a small collection of notable figures who endured scholastic struggles.

Mozart and Beethoven, both true geniuses, lived with learning disabilities.

Mozart composed more than 600 works beginning at age five, and he never made a mistake when creating a score.

He would have the entire piece in his head before he ever took a pen to the paper, and he has composed the most beautiful, stimulating works of art.

Beethoven became deaf during his career. Despite his lack of ability to hear the music he created, he was able to write beautiful works of art.

Woodrow Wilson couldn't read until he was 10 years old, but he became an American scholar, statesman and the 28th president.

Lucille Ball was rejected from acting school because she wasn't a good enough actor, but she captured generations' hearts in her sitcoms and movies.

Anthony Hopkins thought he was a "moron," as a child, because he was so hopeless in school.

Albert Einstein managed to develop the theory of relativity despite his inability to pass the entrance exam for the Swiss Federal Polytechnical School in the city of Zürich, Switzerland, according to neatorama.com. He was said to have thought in pictures rather than words.

Einstein was slow in learning how to speak and had a rude rebelliousness toward authority, but he understood deductive reasoning at the age of 10 and learned Euclidean geometry when he was 12 without finishing high school.

Walt Disney made his mark in our childhoods despite his lack of a high school diploma.

It is not a mark that makes a person intelligent or talented, but rather the mark a person leaves.

After this week or this semester, it isn't going to matter if you made a B on an economics exam or squeaked by in your English class.

What is going to matter is how you use and apply the knowledge you gained.

This week, don't lose sleep or encourage premature gray hairs because you want to earn that A.

Be more than the person who knows how to build hotels and pass go without hoping you land in jail.

Be the person who looks past the grading system and leaves college with more than just a letter.

Be the person who graduates with an education.

Once golden Academy loses its luster

Richelle Stephens
Staff Columnist



I have a feeling that the Oscars will soon have as much legitimacy as the MTV Movie Awards.

What was once the grande dame of Hollywood now serves as a tired and trite reminder of the long gone golden days of American entertainment.

Forty years ago there was a good chance that if one monster of an epic movie such as "Ben Hur" or "Lawrence of Arabia" won Best Picture then it would win nearly everything else.

Such is not the case these days, as critics and entertainment journalists are for the most part divided on their opinions regarding who should and who would win.

Granted, every year there's at least one sure-fire winner in a particular category, but there's almost never a movie that comes about these days that looks to win everything for which it is nominated.

The two major exceptions are of course "Titanic" in 1997 and "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" in 2002.

Both modern epics won all or most of the awards for which they were nominated, in true classic Academy fashion, of course.

This year's ceremony could prove to be the final lifeline for a quickly dying tradition for several reasons.

First of all is the presence of certain B-list bound celebrities at this so-called "prestigious" event.

Inviting actors such as Zac Efron and that guy from "Twilight" even 10 years ago would have been unthinkable.

Perhaps the Academy needed to tap into a new and younger demographic as a means of survival.

Who knows what they're thinking these days?

In fact, it seems as though the event showcases those who come more than the movies themselves.

The various entertainment news programs buzz about who wore what outfit for days after, but they give about a half hour's worth of collective coverage to the winning movies, actors and directors.

I've heard people claim that the Academy awarded Heath Ledger an Oscar simply because of his death.

I'm not certain as to whether they've seen "The Dark Knight," but, simply put, Ledger deserved the recognition.

He transcended all expectations about how a movie villain should be portrayed.

If there ever was an example of perfect evil, his rendition of the Joker is it.

I do agree, however, with the Academy's decision to keep "The Dark Knight" out of contention for Best Picture.

Although Ledger gave perhaps the performance of his career, other factors such as poor acting from both Christian Bale and Aaron Eckhart and the alternation between drawn out and hastened plot progressions flawed the overall value of the movie.

I've noticed that the pre-ceremony coverage seems to be longer than the actual event itself, especially when viewed on the E! network.

In this case, once the viewer gets past Joan Rivers' moaning about fashion mishaps for six hours, then the nearly five-hour awards ceremony is almost unbearable.

The fact that there are still such extravagant affairs in such a shambles of an economy never ceases to amaze me.

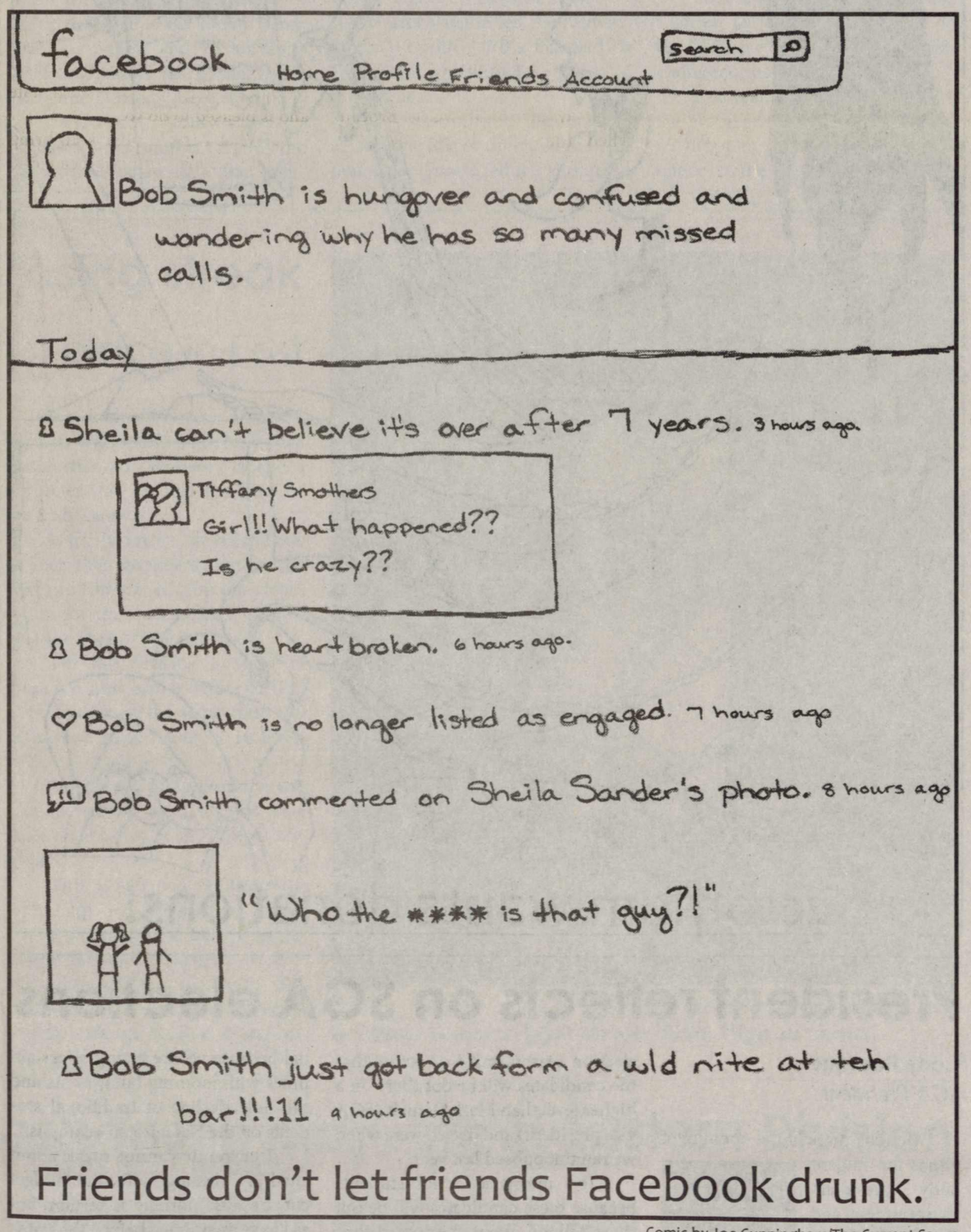
Those who attended the Oscars should have become examples of modern frugality and exercised restraint on all of the "bling."

This is not a good time to show off a $20,000 dress, especially when more people are out of work and less money is being spent on entertainment.

Movies were once a suitable outlet to get away from the troubles of real life. Now they serve as an unnecessary expense.

The current state of the movie industry isn't a good one, for feel-good escapist flicks are neither economical nor artistically viable.

And when put against a more realistic movie with artistic credibility (which would be preferable to studios these days) come awards season, then a modern day "Ben Hur" would surely lose to a "Slumdog Millionaire" or a "Milk."



Comic by Joe Cunningham/The Current Sauce

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Letter to the Editor: In defense of a sweatshirt

Dear Editor:

I disagree with the opinion expressed by "A REAL NSU DEMON" who was upset by an SGA member wearing a Tulane sweatshirt. (Opinions page, The Current Sauce, Feb. 18, 2009.)

Currently I am a student in the Addiction Studies program of the Department of Psychology at NSU. A few years ago I served briefly as an adjunct professor in the Department of Mathematics at NSU. Like most instructors and professors, I have studied at more than one university.

I support all of the places I have studied. I have enjoyed each one. I am happy to wear my NSU caps and shirts.

My B.S. and my early graduate work and teaching were at McNeese State University in Lake Charles. I enjoyed my time there and wore my McNeese shirts until they wore out. If I still had some, I would be happy to wear them now.

My enjoyment of NSU does not require me to reject and forget my other universities.

Thank you.
Herbert de Launay

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu

Red vs. Blue: In response to a response

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



President Barack Obama made his first state of the union address on Feb. 24.

After the speech, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal had the honor of delivering the Republican response to President Obama's speech.

Gov. Jindal talked about his willingness to work with the president. Jindal, many times, reminded us of how fortunate we are to live in America and to be Americans.

He talked about his willingness to serve the state of Louisiana as well as his eagerness to help Obama make this country a better place.

Jindal pushed the idea of looking past our political party affiliations and working together as one.

Jindal talked about his personal life and his own parents' journey when they moved to America.

He added that his parents instilled a great love for America in him and a thankfulness that we should all have to be Americans.

The governor assured those who watched and listened to him that even though America is going through a tough time, Americans are capable of doing anything.

Jindal stressed the idea that we should not depend on the government as much as Obama and his administration are telling us to.

He stressed that our taxes should not be raised to fix our problems, rather more faith should be put in the American people.

Jindal added his disgust with the excessive spending going on in Washington and talked about the pointless things that Americans are being forced to pay for just because Washington says so.

Jindal slammed the Democrats for the stimulus bill they have brought to the table.

He explained that it is "irresponsible," and it is like asking our children for money for things we do not need.

I have heard some complaints that all Jindal did was blame the Democrats for everything.

While he did point out some flaws, he also assured Americans that he is here to help, and he is more than willing to look past the party lines.

He encouraged us that together as Americans we can do anything that is asked or needed of us.

Our governor is looking ahead and making a bold move instead of waiting for Washington or others in charge to tell him to do so.

I believe he made Louisiana look great, and I have faith, like Gov. Jindal, that if we work together we will continue to be the great country that we are.

As far as Louisiana goes, we are still at the top of Gov. Jindal's list. Despite some claims that Jindal is trying to further his political career and not taking care of us, our state is definitely his top priority.

Still, I am not ruling out a run for president in 2012, and if he runs, he has my vote.

But that is another article for another day.

Heath Boddie
Guest Columnist



President Barack Obama gave his first state of the union address, and our "esteemed" governor was chosen to give the Republican response.
Here is a recap of Governor Jindal's speech.

Good evening, I am Governor Piyush Jindal, but I go by Bobby so voters will be able to better connect with me in the voting booth because I have a more American sounding name.

President Obama went through great tribulations to become the leader of the free world.

However, as I am trying to establish myself as the Republican Obama when I run for president in 2012, I will not mention that, and instead I'll tell you about my history, even though I am sure a majority of Americans do not care. I claim to be bi-partisan in my approach toward state matters, but the citizens of my state know better after the political battle that ensued for the State House Speaker position in which I chose a Republican member even though Democrats are still in the majority.

Allow me to score political points by invoking the failure of the government during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans metro area, even though the president at the time was a Republican and said that his own FEMA director was doing a 'heck of a job'.

I must admit, though, I am failing to point out that the state's own Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu was out in the boats saving people unlike myself. Also, allow me to fabricate a conversation between then-Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee and myself and hope the media does not investigate the matter.

I want to say that the Democratic approach is wrong and will only increase our debt, even though my own party's economic policies lead to massive deficits, which is evidenced by our past Republican president.

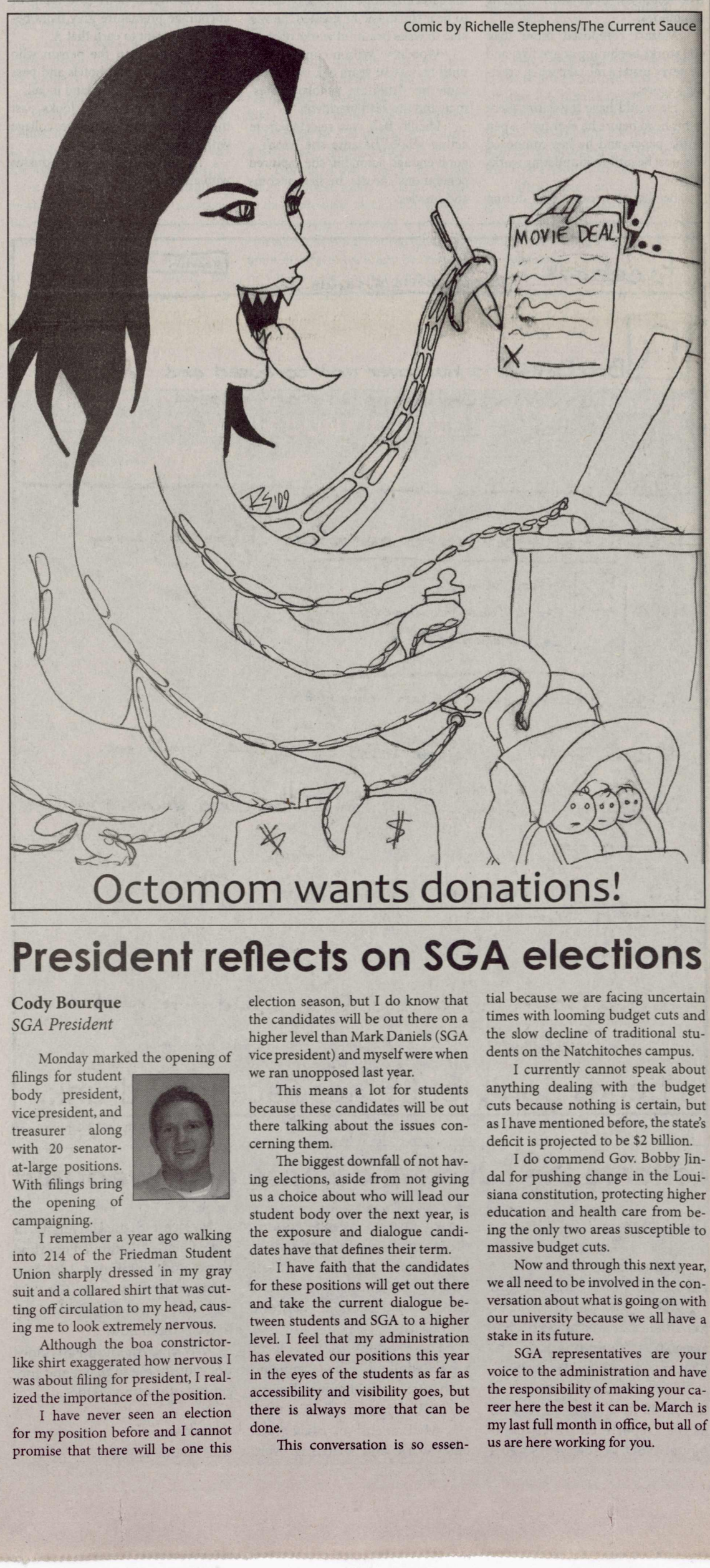
My state legislature and I cut taxes a total of six times since I became the governor of Louisiana, but I am not going to mention that those tax cuts left a $2 billion dollar deficit that I will balance by cutting spending in education and healthcare, furthering my state's decline into obscurity.

I claim to be for education, even though I cut its funding at every available opportunity, and after Katrina my predecessor in the governor's mansion re-designed how the Orleans Parish School System operates, but I will claim that I did it singlehandedly.

I believe that using military defense instead of spending in the public domain will bring our economy back to what it was, even though Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr. left massive debts on American taxpayers.

In closing, allow me to use Sept. 11 too and the name of the Holy Father to connect with more voters in ways Rudy Giuliani and Mike Huckabee were unable to do in the Republican primaries in 2008.

Remember me, for I will be running for president in 2012.



Student finds 'manners' displeasing

Tori Ladd
Life Editor



"Thank you," "yes ma'am," "no sir," "please" and "excuse me," are just some things we should say to other human beings.

Young people, elderly, disabled, men and women, rich and poor, they all deserve respect.

Some people seem to believe that respect should not be shown until it is earned.

Balderdash.

Respect should be given and shown at all times regardless of the recipient.

It doesn't matter how or what you call it. Showing common courtesy, having an ethical code or being on your best behavior in a social setting, whichever sounds fancy to you. Just call it plain manners.

Where have they gone? People have forgotten them. Have they died with chivalry?

According to dictionary.com, manners are simply ways of behaving with reference to polite standards or social comportment.

Having manners is as easy as waking up and doing your general routine. Bumping into someone and saying, "pardon me," instead of giving them a mean look and trudging along.

On the other hand, people bring out the saying "nature versus nurture," which is defined as the comparative importance of a person's individual differences versus personal experience, meaning that some people were not taught social ethics. Manners falls under nurture – the impact your mentors had on you – and the nature part being that the person was not taught anything and is a product of ignorance.

When you are born, the first social group you are inducted into is your family. Your parents are the mentors who teach you about being polite to others. You probably could recall your mother telling you to "play nice and share" and "say excuse me" when you were younger.

In your elementary school years, teachers teach you how to share and help you develop your interpersonal skills. Church environments help you get more involved and show you how to effectively and rationally deal with your problems. When I was younger my mommy always told me a little kindness goes a long way.

All of these situations have taught us the correct way to interact with others, but most of us throw that out of the window. It seems as if some people go out of their way to be rude, and then don't feel any remorse about it.

People in the south tend to be more polite than people from the north, often resulting in people referring to southerners as having southern hospitality.

Common courtesy is a form of respect, and each person or thing deserves normal social interaction.

At the end of the day it all boils down to God's magical words, "do you onto others as you would have them do onto you."

Kind of cliché, but its something true to live by.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Half the Battle: zomg wtf is goin on

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



so i herd u liek 2 type liek dis so i figured id talk 2 u liek dis in dis column.

For those of you going "lol wut," welcome to the world of 1337 (leet) speak. It is a new language to most, and it is probably ruining our own. If you spend too much time on the Internet (also known as the "interwebs") or texting, you have probably been affected.

The numbers "2" and "4" are not words. "u" and "r" are the same way. Yet, it never fails that I get numerous messages with those mistakes… no, abominations of the English language, splattered everywhere. In fact, I am looking on Facebook, and I see three wall postings in the news feed with these horrible traits.

Here's a fun game to try. Send a text message or Facebook message with the following sentence:

"imo u r a t0tal n00bz0rs"

If your friend understands this, then get him or her a psychiatrist and an English professor immediately. And don't you dare look up the meaning to that sentence, or you will turn into a pillar of salt.

Why are we so eager to cast off the shackles of grammar at our earliest convenience? The mind-numbing lack of any human decency when it comes to writing is slowly eating its way into our lives.

Walk up to any teacher, English or any other that would assign a paper, and ask if they have noticed this type of language creeping into their assignments. Twelve times out of 10, they will say yes.

But, where did this language come from?

Leet speak began in the 1980s with bulletin board systems. Elite status on the BBS granted users all sorts of neat access, like folders and games, and connected these people.

It was the interwebs, baby.

This was the time of the birth of ASCII (art created through text, and let me tell you, the ASCII art of Jean-Luc Picard facepalming is awesome) and emoticons, known to most as "smileys."

Leet speak was once the hallmark of hackers and the most elite of computer nerds. However, it has entered the mainstream... and it is bringing our language into ruin.

In the language of the interwebs, the most notable changes are brought to us by what are considered the "big five" Web sites that form modern Internet culture: 4chan, You The Man Now Dog, Something Awful, Fark and LUE.

Within this subculture, we also see the rise of "memes," which fall somewhere between cliches and idioms. Most are really mindless and based on a briefly popular picture or phrase.

Praising "his noodly appendage" is one of the earlier-known memes, referring to the Flying Spaghetti Monster (look it up, it will not disappoint, much like Raptor Jesus). Those familiar with icanhascheezburger.com will know of the lolcats and the devesation they bring to our language as well.

Whether you are overusing these memes, like "so i herd u liek mudkipz" or saying "OMG" (all caps are necessary, you see) way too often, or just refusing to spell three-letter words like "you" and "too", take a moment and remember that the real world doesn't accept text-speak as a legitimate form of communication.

President reflects on SGA elections

Cody Bourque
SGA President

Monday marked the opening of filings for student body president, vice president, and treasurer along with 20 senator-at-large positions. With filings bring the opening of campaigning.

I remember a year ago walking into 214 of the Friedman Student Union sharply dressed in my gray suit and a collared shirt that was cutting off circulation to my head, causing me to look extremely nervous.

Although the boa constrictor-like shirt exaggerated how nervous I was about filing for president, I realized the importance of the position.

I have never seen an election for my position before and I cannot promise that there will be one this election season, but I do know that the candidates will be out there on a higher level than Mark Daniels (SGA vice president) and myself were when we ran unopposed last year.

This means a lot for students because these candidates will be out there talking about the issues concerning them.

The biggest downfall of not having elections, aside from not giving us a choice about who will lead our student body over the next year, is the exposure and dialogue candidates have that defines their term.

I have faith that the candidates for these positions will get out there and take the current dialogue between students and SGA to a higher level. I feel that my administration has elevated our positions this year in the eyes of the students as far as accessibility and visibility goes, but there is always more that can be done.

This conversation is so essential because we are facing uncertain times with looming budget cuts and the slow decline of traditional students on the Natchitoches campus.

I currently cannot speak about anything dealing with the budget cuts because nothing is certain, but as I have mentioned before, the state's deficit is projected to be $2 billion.

I do commend Gov. Bobby Jindal for pushing change in the Louisiana constitution, protecting higher education and health care from being the only two areas susceptible to massive budget cuts.

Now and through this next year, we all need to be involved in the conversation about what is going on with our university because we all have a stake in its future.

SGA representatives are your voice to the administration and have the responsibility of making your career here the best it can be. March is my last full month in office, but all of us are here working for you.

Demons celebrate weekend series sweep

Jake Cooper
Sauce Reporter

After dropping two of three at the University of Louisiana at Monroe baseball tournament last week to Mississippi Valley State and conference rival Stephen F. Austin University, the NSU Demon baseball team (1-2) opened a five-game stint at Brown-Stroud Field Tuesday with a win over Grambling.

With a 3-1 lead after the sixth, the Demons exploded in the bottom of the seventh for seven runs to secure an 11-1 victory over the Tigers.

Junior shortstop Trent Grondin started the barrage off with a walk followed by senior left fielder Jordan Nipp's single through the left side of the infield.

After walking junior right fielder Tyler Baisley to load the bases for the Demons, junior second baseman Chase Lyles singled through the left side scoring Grondin and Nipp.

Also, senior designated hitter Joe Urtuzuastegui hit a three-run double to the wall followed by a pinch-hit double by Colin Bear that drove in another.

Beau Snodgrass, pinch hitting, singled to move Bear over to third. Trent Grondin grounded out to second base for the sacrifice RBI and final run of the inning.

Junior pitcher Andrew Plotkin started the game for the Demons, pitching five innings and only giving up one run in the process.

The Demons' bullpen was as equally impressive. Freshman pitcher Chad Sheppard pitched three innings in relief and gave up no runs on two hits while striking out three.

Junior pitcher Trevor Geist came on in the top of the ninth and was very effective, giving up only one hit and no runs.

Chase Lyles led the Demons, going 3-4 with two RBIs.

Junior third baseman Dan Meyer and Urtuzuastegui both went 2-4 and had three RBIs apiece.

On Wednesday night, the Demons squared off against the undefeated Bulldogs of Louisiana Tech University in a thriller that didn't go the home team's way.

Freshman pitcher Carlos Maese started the game well, recording three straight outs.

The Demons fell into an early hole after the Bulldogs' senior shortstop Ashton Hughes hit a three-run homer in the top of the second that was preceded by a leadoff triple from freshman third baseman Chris Kersten.

He scored on a passed ball during the next at bat. However, the Demons answered with two runs in the bottom half of the inning.

The Demons added another in the fourth off a Garret Vaughn bunt that recorded an RBI and a base hit for the big man.

They added one more in the fifth when Justin O'Neal scored from third on a balk by Jamey Bradshaw to pull within one run.

In the top of the seventh, freshman Brett Fredieu came in to relieve Ocampo for the Demons and struggled mightily.

First, he gave up a double to Mark Threlkeld. Then, he gave up back-to-back singles to Joey Ford and Patrick Thomas, and Ford's provided another run for the Bulldogs.

After striking one out, Fredieu hit the next batter to load the bases. After another strikeout for the young pitcher, Devon Dageford stepped up with a two-run single to centerfield to give Tech an 8-4 advantage over the Demons.

In the bottom of the seventh, after a string of base hits and a wild pitch, NSU only trailed by two.

The Bulldogs brought in relief pitcher Graham Meyers to replace Mike Jefferson.

Meyers walked the first batter, Chase Lyles. Lyles stole second on the next pitch. With runners on second and third, Dan Meyer stepped in with one out and hit a rocket down the right field line to knot the game up at 8 apiece heading into the home stretch.

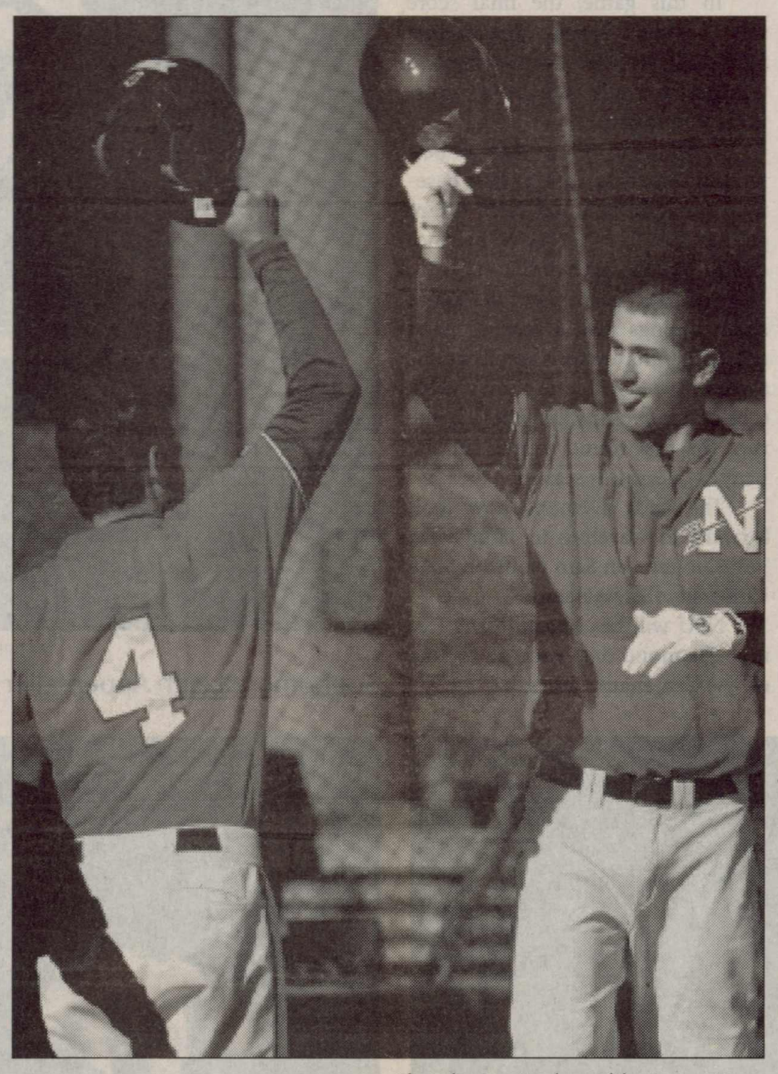


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Outfielder Tyler Baisley (21) and third baseman Dan Meyer (4) celebrate during the sweep of Houston Baptist.

In the top of the eighth, Colin Bear came in to relieve Brett Fredieu, and he gave the Bulldogs a chance to score but worked his way out of the jam. The Demons had their chances to score in the bottom of the inning but could not get one across home plate. They stranded three runners in the inning.

In the top of the ninth, after giving up a double to the Kevin Winn, Bear was pulled, and Trevor Geist was brought in for relief. After an error by the Demons, Geist intentionally walked Alex Williams to load the bases. After another error by the Demons, Kersten scored what eventually proved to be the winning run.

In the bottom of the ninth, with two outs and a runner in scoring position, Garret Vaughn stepped up to the plate with an opportunity to realize one of every college baseball player's dreams: a game winning homerun. Instead, he went down like a fighter: swinging.

Garret Vaughn lead the Demons in hitting going 3-5 with an RBI, followed by Justin O'Neal who went 3-4 and scored a run. For the Bulldogs, Hughes went 1-1 and led the team with three RBIs, all coming from his second inning blast. Dageford added two RBIs for Tech as well.

The loss dropped the Demons below .500 for the second time in a very youthful season, but a weekend series with the Houston Baptist University Huskies would provide a feeding ground for NSU's bats.

The Demons and Huskies kicked off their series Friday night at Brown-Stroud Field.

NSU scored a resounding 16 runs in the victory against an overmatched HBU team. Senior pitcher Jimmy Heard mowed down the Huskies as fast as they could line up with 14 strikeouts, one shy of the school record for most in a game.

Heard only gave up five hits in eight innings of work. Junior pitcher Ryan Zimmerman came on in relief for Heard and shut the Huskies down as well. Zimmerman allowed one hit and struck out two.

The Huskies' pitching was not much more impressive than their hitting. HBU went through five different pitchers during the course of the route. Collectively, they walked nine and gave up 12 earned runs.

Garret Vaughn led the Demons going 1-2 with 3 RBIs followed by Dan Meyer who went 3-3 and scored three times.

An astonishing 10 Demons had at least one RBI or more. Third baseman Brian Franze led the Huskies at the plate going 2-3 with one strike out.

Game two was played Saturday evening and for the Demons' pitching, the song carried the same tune as the previous night. Senior pitcher Kyle Broughton started the game for the Demons.

In seven innings of work, Broughton allowed five hits and no earned runs. He struck out eight to only three walks. Freshman pitcher D.D. Lott came on in relief for two full innings and allowed one hit and struck out two.

The Huskies pitching was pretty sharp as well. Tristan Gaines started the game for HBU and pitched five innings giving up four hits and only three earned runs.

His relief was Keith Brunson who pitched three innings and gave up two hits and no runs; due to his performance, the Huskies made a game out of it.

Junior centerfielder Dominic Gamboa led the Demons at the plate. Gamboa went 2-4 and had one RBI.

The win for the Demons put them above .500 for the first time since their opening-day win over ULM.

The Sunday game wasn't much different. The Huskies evaded a weekend shutout by posting six runs in the contest. Those six paled in comparison to the 14 runs the Demons put up.

Junior outfielder Tyler Baisley had a field day for the Demons. He hit two bombs on the way to the Demons' third-straight victory and weekend sweep over the HBU Huskies.

The Demon's head to Lake Charles, La., this Friday to take on the McNeese State Cowboys in their conference opening series.

Last year, at Brown Stroud Field, the Demons won the series 2-1 after dropping their conference home opener to the Cowboys.

Lady Demon Schedule

Wednesday, March 4

Sam Houston State

6:30 p.m.

Both are SLC matches

Saturday, March 7

@ Southeastern La.

3 p.m.

Lady Demons snap 3-game losing streak

Team remains only 1 game out of 1st place in East

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

The Lady Demons hosted the Lady Bobcats of Texas State University and were victorious with an 80-72 win Saturday.

The win propelled the ladies out of a three-game losing streak and sweetened the deal as it was a Southland Conference win. An integral part of the ladies' game plan was mental preparation.

Head Coach Jennifer Graf, who gained her first victory over the Bobcats, connected the mentality of the Lady Demons to their performance in the final minutes of the game as they trailed the Bobcats 58-56.

Graf said things hadn't really connected in the last five minutes of the past few games, but everything came together Saturday and the Lady Demons "executed."

Sophomore guard Brittiany Houston scored a career-high 20 points.

"We had to get focused because we are a slow-start team, and since we were down in the first half, I got in to help my teammates out because we all knew that we really needed this win," Houston said. "We came back out after halftime being focused and coming out ready to get that victory, and it showed."

Other records were broken as the Lady Demons scored 10 3-pointers amassing 171 points and setting a new record.

Junior forward Sherrion Thomas cleaned the glass, collecting 11 rebounds. Junior guard Anna Cate Williams raked in 14 points.

Other notable players included Demetria White and Jessica McPhail, who scored 11 points each.

With the minutes winding down and the ladies having trailed in the first half, Williams and McPhail kicked things into high gear, scoring consecutively.

The Lady Demons and the Bobcats relinquished the lead back and forth until Williams landed a 3-pointer that secured the lead for the Lady Demons.

As for the future, the ladies hope to keep their confidence up for the next two conference games in preparation for the quarterfinals, semifinals and championship games.

"I'm just looking forward to these last next games before conference, but yet at the same time still taking one game at a time," Houston said.

Tonight the Lady Demons will face off with the Sam Houston State Bearkats at 6:30 p.m. in Prather Coliseum.

With a win and Southeastern University and Stephen F. Austin University losses, the Lady Demons will be tied for first place in the division with one game remaining. The final game is at Southeastern, which could decide the division champion.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Brittiany Houston (1) scored a career-high 20 points.

Texas State eliminates Demons from postseason play, 5th in Eastern Division

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Losses in three of their last four matches games have eliminated the Demon basketball team from postseason play.

NSU is 3-11 in conference play, putting them in fifth place in the Southland Conference's six-team East Division.

Road wearies continue to plague the Demons, winning only one conference game on the road this year. The Demons traveled to San Marcos, Texas to battle the Bobcats of Texas State University Saturday, but a 19-point halftime deficit was too much for the Demons to overcome.

The only lead for the Demons came on the first basket of the game when junior guard Michael McConathy scored the first 3 points of the game.

The Bobcats then outscored the Demons 49-27, leading 49-30 at the half.

The Demons were never able to put together a run to cut into the lead. NSU cut the lead to 15 early in the second half, but Texas State opened the lead up to 28 less than three minutes later. The Bobcats never looked back, demolishing the Demons 98-65.

McConathy led the Demons in scoring with 16, while freshmen guards Darius Richardson and Charles Clark added 13 and 10, respectively.

Freshman center William Mosley added 10 rebounds, the only Demon with double figure boards.

Texas State had four players score in double figures, led by Brent Benson with 27 on 10-12 shooting.

The Bobcats dominated the Demons in the paint, fast-break points and points off turnovers.

TSU outscored the Demons by 66 in the three categories.

"I don't feel like we played with heart," head coach Mike McConathy said. "We had pieces playing with heart but not a combined effort playing with heart. We just didn't have that passion. We get hit, and we have only two of three guys that will fight. William Mosley continues to amaze me. He keeps fighting through the bad times and is getting to the point where he will be a great player."

Ten days prior to the loss, the Demons hosted conference foe, McNeese State University. The Cowboys came out of Natchitoches with an 88-84 win, riding Diego Kapelan, who led all scorers with 37.

Kapelan scorched the nets for a new McNeese State record - nine 3-pointers.

Senior forward Kalem Porterie led the Demons in scoring with 14, while senior guard added 13.

Michael McConathy contributed 11. NSU struggled offensively, shooting only 37 percent from the field.

"We just have a hard time scoring," Mike McConathy said. "We'll defend, then we won't score. Diego [Kapelan] just kicked our butt all night long. We're saying 'don't leave him open, don't leave him open,' then he goes nine of 17 from the three-point line, and that's the difference in the ball game right there."

When the Demons traveled to Lamar University, the road misery continued. The Cardinals pounded NSU 89-67, leaving the Demons with a 2-10 conference mark.

On Feb. 25, NSU looked to run by the Roadrunners of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The Demons trailed UTSA by 7 at the half, but back-to-back 3-pointers by junior guard Damon Jones and senior guard Keithan Hancock powered the Demons past UTSA 77-74.

Hancock hit the go-ahead three with 20.3 seconds left. He finished with 12 points for the game.

Jones finished with a game-high 26 points, while Porterie recorded a double-double with 14 points and 15 rebounds.

The Demons continue conference play tonight in Huntsville, Texas, against Sam Houston State University at 7 p.m.

NSU plays its final game of the season on March 7, hosting Southeastern Louisiana University for Alumni Day at 2 p.m.

The Demons' record now sits at 11-18, with only three of those wins coming in conference play. The Demons will lose only three seniors.

Andy Bullard
Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editors
March 4, 2009

Softball suffers 6-game skid

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The Lady Demon's softball team looked to turn its season around as it entered Southland Conference play, but a six-game losing streak leaves the team struggling for a different answer.

"We just need to find our game," head coach Donald Pickett said. "We have been getting good play from the team, just a few mistakes in each game has made it hard for us to win."

The six-game losing streak started with a loss against the McNeese State Cowgirls, 8-0 in five innings. Tiffany Ward, Laurie Gomez and Cary Bruno all went one for two. Starting pitcher Leigh Appenfeller gave up all eight runs in only one and a third innings.

Relief pitcher Sara Dornelas came in and pitched the rest of the game giving up only one hit. The second game ended with a final score of 6-2. Brittany Card and Cassy Poncik had the only RBIs for NSU.

Tiffany Ward went two for three and scored one of the two runs. Leslie Johnson scored the other run. The third game finished the same way the first two started - with a loss. NSU lost the third game of the series by a final score of 6-0.

Leslie Johnson and Amanda Jameson had NSU's two lone hits as they both went one for three. The Lady Jacks came to the Demon Diamond and were not exactly the best guests, beating NSU 10-0 in only six innings.

Centerfielder Randi Stuard had the lone hit for the Lady Demons, and the second game ended almost exactly the same way as the first one did.

In this game, the final score was 11-0 in six innings. The starting pitcher for SFA threw a no-hitter and was only one walk away from throwing a perfect game.

"We have to continue to get better with our bats," junior first baseman Amanda Jameson said. "We're getting girls on, but we're just not doing anything with that."

The third game went the entire seven innings with a final score of 6-2. Samantha Roberts went two for three with two RBIs and a run scored. One of her two hits was a solo home run, the first round-tripper for the Lady Demons this season.

The Lady Demons now look forward to traveling to Huntsville, Texas, to take on Sam Houston State University this weekend.

NSU will head back to the Demon Diamond on March 11 to take on the Centenary Ladies.

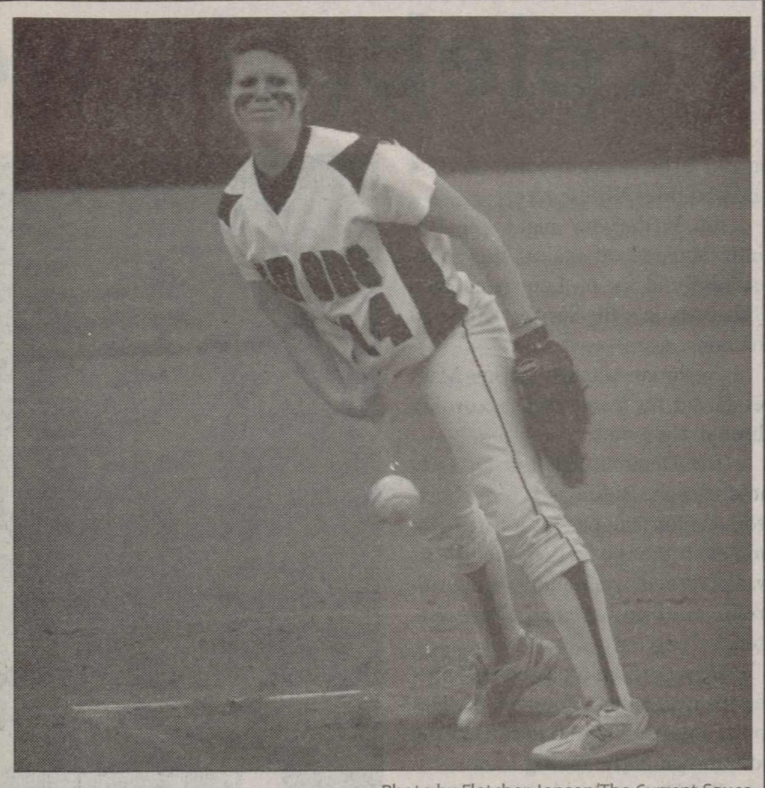


Photo by Fletcher Jonson/The Current Sauce

Sophomore Leigh Appenfeller (14) pitches against MSU.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Stormi Stech (16) tags a Ladyjack baserunner in the Lady Demon's conference loss.



Photo by Fletcher Jonson/The Current Sauce

Left to Right: Leigh Appenfeller (14) and Laurie Gomez (15)

NSU indoor track teams finish 9th in conference, outdoor track starts Saturday

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU men's and women's indoor track team finished up its season at the Southland Conference Indoor Track Championships where they both finished 9th.

The men's 4x400 relay team had one of its best showings, finishing second, only four hundredths of a second behind the winner of the event, the University of Texas at Arlington.

The team's time was clocked at 3:17.55. Junior Michael Green ran the anchor leg for the Demons, after junior Michael Bates, sophomore Jamie Emery and sophomore Jeremy Thomas.

Green also competed in the individual 400-meter dash and finished with a personal best.

He placed third behind the winner from Stephen F. Austin University, who finished with a time of 48.20 seconds.

The women's 4x400 relay team also had a good showing finishing in 4th place.

The relay team of sophomore Andrea Warren, junior Phyllis Iheanacho, sophomore Carmen Wallace and junior Jazmen Williams ran its season-best of 3:50.60.

Warren also placed well individually with her fifth place finish in the 800-meter. She finished with a personal best of 2:16.22.

Senior Chris Pearson also took fifth place in the 800-meter event for the men's team with a time of 1:55.37.

On the second day of the championships, NSU picked up three 8th place finishes.

The first was freshman Bradford Matthews in the triple jump with a jump of 47-7 1/4.

The second 8th place finish was by freshman Buck Thompson in the shot put with a throw of 48-6 3/4, and junior Anna Forest made the third 8th place winner in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.81 seconds.

NSU also had a couple of 6th place finishes in the meet with senior Shanae Steward in the 60-meter hurdles, with a time of 8.89 seconds, and freshman Leslie Jordan in the shot put with a throw of 41-6 1/2.

The final women's standings were: Stephen F. Austin, Texas State, Sam Houston State, UTA, UTSA, TXAM-CC, Southeastern Louisiana, McNeese State, NSU, Nicholls, Lamar and Central Arkansas.

The final men's standings for the SLC Indoor Championships were: UTSA, UTA, SELA, Lamar, SFA, TSU, SHSU, MSU, NSU, TXAMCC and UCA.

The outdoor track season starts March 7 with the Nortwestern Relays.

Lady Demon tennis starts conference play, record sits at .500

Devon Drake
Web Editor

The Lady Demon tennis team hosted the University of Texas at Arlington on Saturday.

The Lady Demons came into the match 6-2 with a 1-0 record in the Southland Conference and fell to the 3-2 UTA team, evening out the Demon's conference record at 1-1

UTA, however, rose to 2-0 in the SLC.

UTA swept the singles competition, winning all but one match in straight sets. The Lady Demons' Olga Bazhanova put up the biggest fight, winning her first set 6-1.

However, she lost the next two 7-6 (5), 10-8, culminating in her fourth loss of the season and her first conference loss.

The straight singles losses also resulted in Suncica Strkic's first singles loss of the season.

The doubles competition, however, went to the Lady Demons.

Of the three matches, NSU won two, earning NSU the doubles point. In the first match, Brazhanova and Dragana Colic defeated UTA's Klara Jagosova and Nikola Matovivoa 8-5, handing the UTA duo its first doubles loss of the season.

In the second match, NSU's Kathrin Lange and Bianca Schulz defeated UTA's Maria Martinez and Daiana Negreanu 8-2.

In the final match, UTA's Monika Hadvideroga and Katarina Mlcovhova defeated NSU's Adna Curukovic and Suncica Strikic 8-5, dropping the NSU duo's doubles record to 7-2.

After the match, NSU's record fell to 6-3 overall with 11 games remaining before the SLC Tournament.

Nine of those games will be conference play.

The Lady Demons' next match will be at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, with their next home match at 2 p.m. on March 13 against the University of Central Arkansas.

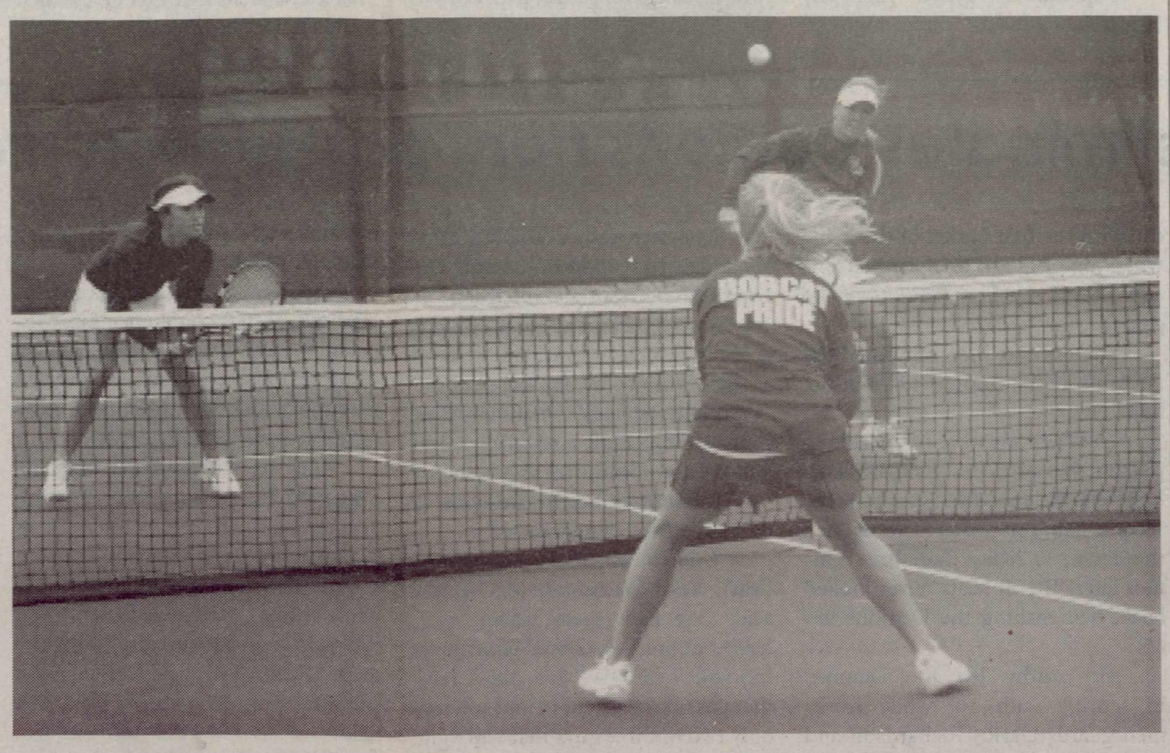
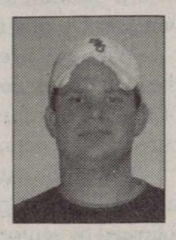


Photo by Fletcher Jonson/The Current Sauce

Adna Curukovic (left) and Suncica Strkic (right) battle the Lady Bobcats in conference play.

Fourth and Fletch: Happiness within the 'Madness'

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor



Ah, March Madness is finally upon us. This is my second favorite time of the year, behind Christmas, of course. Basketball has been a passion of mine since I was four years old, which is when I started playing the wonderful game.

College basketball's regular season is nearing its consummation, and conference tournaments will begin in less than two weeks.

I love this time of year because the great teams expose themselves and reveal their true potential. The men are separated from the boys.

Upsets are always looming on the horizon.

Seven seeds will make runs through conference tournaments, placing upset and disappoint on the higher seeds, which are always looking to earn a top seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Some of the top-ranked teams in the country will dominate their conference tournaments and struggle early in the NCAA tourney.

I love seeing the different outcomes of each game.

I have become even more passionate about March Madness because of 2006.

Of course I am reminiscing on the 2005-2006 "Demons of Destiny." If you weren't in school at NSU yet, or weren't following the tournament closely, then you probably won't fully comprehend what I am trying to convey.

I was at my boss's house watching the game with other people closely associated with NSU.

We trailed by 17 with 8:30 to go, and almost everyone was calling it over.

Things weren't looking good, but I'm so optimistic that I never rule anything out.

Clifton Lee knocked down a couple of 3-pointers to cut into the lead and gave us hope.

When the final seconds were ticking, Luke Rogers passed the ball ahead to Kerwin Forges, who missed a 3-pointer.

Jermaine Wallace hustled for the rebound and drilled the game-winning 3-pointer from the left corner.

I can still recite, word for word, the Patrick Netherton's radio play-by-play call, and it's three years later.

That's how into it I was. It still gives me goose bumps.

That was the same year George Mason reached the Final Four. Who would have thought that was possible? I didn't.

Another thing I love about March Madness is filling out brackets. I like to think I'm pretty good at it, but sometimes I can't pick games to save my life.

There have been multiple years I pick all four Final Four teams correctly.

Of course, there have been the years that my picks go no further than the Sweet 16 or Elite 8.

I hate that we have not been a part of The Big Dance since 2005-2006. We have to relish the sweet taste of victory as long we can.

When the tournament starts, I turn on the television, and there is a game on. I love it. Of course I won't watch every second of every game, but I love the opportunity to watch and follow basketball all day.

And yes, I am biased toward college basketball because that is the sole reason I got into journalism.

I want to be a college basketball analyst. I guess it's a good thing that I am as passionate as I am. Otherwise, I think there would be a problem.

This is an opinion column. Please refer to the policy on the Opinions page.

The Current Sauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 23

This week

Push America

Pi Kappa Phi fraternity raises funds and awareness.

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Pickup woes

Students discuss the pointlessness of pickup lines.

p. 5

NSU Relays

Men's and women's track and field teams claim seven wins at home relays.

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Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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SGA hopes to avoid election drought

Only two students file for executive positions

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief

Two days before filings for Student Government Association positions close, the actuality of an electoral race appears questionable.

With only one official filing so far, the officials may be appointed, rather than elected by the student body. Junior Jason Thibodeaux and sophomore Chris Sanders, both history majors, have filed as running mates for the positions of SGA president and vice president, respectively.

If no other students file for the position, this may mark the fifth year in a row that the SGA president at NSU assumes the office without competition.

Both Sanders and Thibodeaux said that there has been talk from other SGA members about filing for executive positions, but as of Tuesday, no one else had officially applied for the job.

SGA members who have served at least two consecutive semesters, have completed 45 hours of school and have maintained a 2.0 GPA still have until Friday to file for these positions as well as that of treasurer.

The filing deadline and GPA requirement are the same for senator positions.

With a year of experience as SGA treasurer, senior liberal arts major Lauren Michel knows what she expects from the person who fills her shoes next year.

The new treasurer will need to understand the importance of keeping realistic budgets, remember to always work for the student body and remain a positive example for the senators, Michel said.

On April 1, full-time NSU students vote on these SGA positions as well as Student Activities Board representatives and changes to the SAB constitution.

Thibodeaux said he and Sanders chose to file for the positions because they both had the desire and experience to do a good job.

Thibodeaux has been a part of the SGA for three semesters, and Sanders has four semesters of experience under his belt.

Sanders said he and Thibodeaux began joking around about the possibility of filing for the position, but eventually the topic turned serious. They decided to go for it.

Thibodeaux also said that part of the reason he and Sanders wanted to run for leadership positions in the SGA is because the current group is "very young."

"We saw a need for leadership in the SGA," Thibodeaux said.

"We can add a lot to the dynamic of Northwestern State."

If this pair of politicians remains the only pair to file by Friday, then Thibodeaux and Sanders would run unopposed and likely be appointed to these positions.

As part of the application process, the two have established a platform that will guide their term in office if elected.

"One of our main issues is Senate reform," Thibodeaux said.

Thibodeaux said that although most of the current senators are dedicated, he and Sanders would implement more rigid rules to weed out those potential senators who might simply be looking for a way to add a line to their resumes.

He also wants to implement more accountability for the senators with things such as office hours.

They also want to look at reforming the use of student fees and reevaluating what the SGA can offer to students.

"We're looking to revise the budget to maximize what we have," Sanders said.

Sanders said they would first ask students what they would like most from the SGA, so that the organization could prioritize and budget accordingly.



Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Junior history major Jason Thibodeaux (left) and his running mate, sophomore history major Chris Sanders, address the SGA executive board Monday.

They both said that the current administration of Bourque, Daniels and Michel would be around to help the next leaders transition into their positions as well as advise them next year.

Cody Bourque, junior journalism major and current SGA president, will step down from office on April 20.

"It's bittersweet," Bourque said about his term coming to an end.

He said the biggest thing he wants to carry over to the next administration's reign is student discussion.

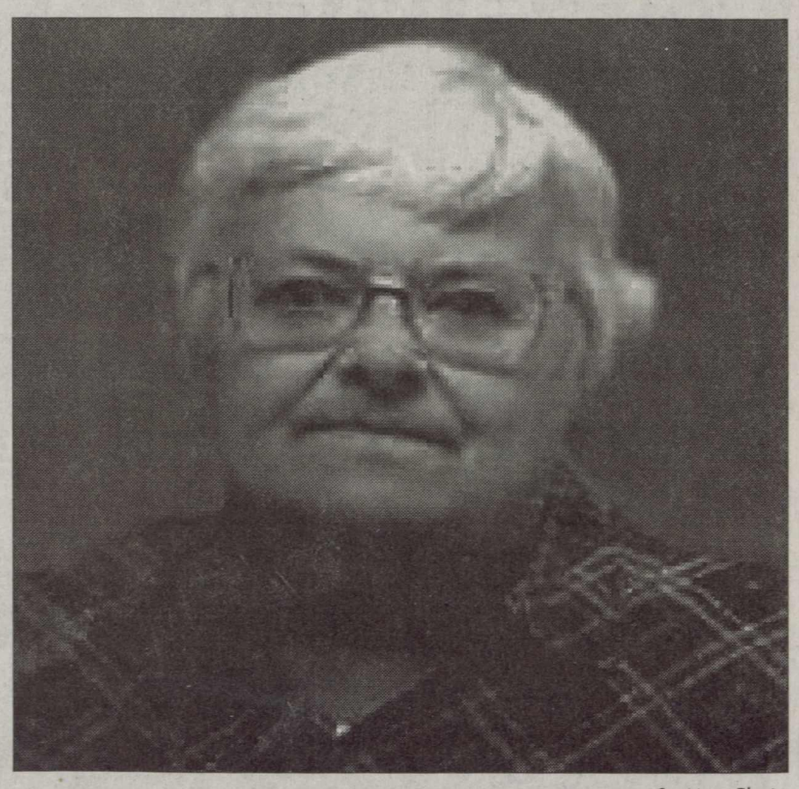
"What I want to pass down is to always stand firm, stand up for students," Bourque said.

He said he is proud of what his administration has been able to accomplish, but he added that he looks forward to next year, as there are still a lot of changes to be made.

"There have to be new ways of thinking about student government," Bourque said, emphasizing the importance of a new administration.

History professor leaves legacy at NSU

University thanks LeBreton for 45 years of service



Courtesy Photo

Marietta LeBreton taught at NSU for more than 45 years and had one of the longest tenures in university history.

David Royal
News Editor

The School of Social Sciences lost a valued faculty member, Marietta LeBreton, on Thursday when she died of a brief illness.

For more than 45 years, LeBreton taught several courses for the School of Social Sciences relating to Louisiana history, the American West and antebellum America, and she had one of the longest tenures in NSU history.

LeBreton joined the NSU faculty in 1963 as an instructor of social science.

By 1973, she was promoted to full professor, according to the NSU News Bureau.

From 1980 to 1983, LeBreton served as head of the history department and was the interim director of the School of Social Sciences for a year in 2004.

The current director of the School of Social Sciences, Gregory Granger, worked with LeBreton for 13 years and said there were many times when he would go to LeBreton for guidance and her opinion on certain matters.

"She had so much insight and was just a great person to confide in," Granger said.

Granger said there are many things he and the School of Social Sciences will miss about LeBreton.

"Dr. LeBreton was both a close friend and a leader to us all," Granger said.

LeBreton used her knowledge outside of the classroom as well. She helped commemorate NSU's 100th anniversary by writing "Northwestern State University: A History 1884-1984."

LeBreton wrote other pieces for academic publications, including "The Acadians" for the Harvard University Press.

She also wrote a position paper on Article III of Louisiana's 1812 Constitution for "Edwin W. Edwards, The Role of the Governor in Louisiana Politics: A Historical Analysis," according to the NSU News Bureau.

Granger said it was LeBreton's vast knowledge and hands-on experience that made her so valuable.

"We may get a history professor to teach [LeBreton's] classes, but we'll never replace her," Granger said.

Many students, particularly history majors, became acquainted with LeBreton through her Louisiana history class that she taught and specialized in for years.

Senior hospitality management and tourism major Shayne Creppel said he took LeBreton's Louisiana history class his junior year.

Although he did not need the class in order to graduate, Creppel said when he first came to NSU he heard many students talking about how great LeBreton's Louisiana history class was.

After he read one of her books, Creppel decided he must take LeBreton's class, and he said LeBreton exceeded his expectations.

"I thought I already knew a lot about Louisiana history, but Dr. LeBreton's course turned out to be very difficult," Creppel said.

"She went beyond the material in the book, and I learned so much as a result."

Despite the challenges, Creppel said LeBreton's class still turned out to be one of his favorites.

"I feel honored to have had the opportunity to take the legendary 'Dr. LeBreton's Louisiana history class,'" Creppel said.

Granger said Susan Dollar, assistant professor of history, will take over LeBreton's Louisiana history class next semester. He added that he could not think of anyone better to take on the job.

"[Dollar] is a very fitting person to pass on the torch to," Granger said.

In order to honor the work and memory of LeBreton, Granger said he and the School of Social Sciences are planning to form a memorial scholarship in her name.

Granger said, however, they have just begun to consider the details of the scholarship.

LeBreton's visitation services will begin today at 10 a.m. at Holy Cross Church in Natchitoches and will last until the funeral begins at noon.

Funeral services will also take place at the Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home Chapel in New Orleans on Thursday.

Academic Work of Marietta LeBreton:

- "Northwestern State University: A History 1884-1984"
- "The Acadians" Published by Harvard University Press
- "Bayou Dorcheat" for "Rivers and Bayous of Louisiana
- "The Burr Conspiracy" for "Readings in Louisiana History"
- Associate Editor of "Reading in Louisiana History" by the Louisiana Historical Association
- Position Paper for "Edwin W. Edwards, The Role of the Governor in Louisiana Politics: A Historical Analysis"

NSU News Bureau

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News Editor
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March 11, 2009

CHEF WOK
VOTED Top100
Chinese Restaurants in U.S.A.

Two NSU justices resign

David Royal
News Editor

Chief Justice Kyle Domangue and Justice Ryan Rushing resigned last week from their NSU Supreme Court positions, leaving the remaining members with the unanticipated task of rebuilding their numbers.

In a meeting last night, the other five justices voted to name Paul Shelton as the interim chief justice. Justice Austin Jesmore was also a possible candidate for the position.

Shelton said the resignations of Domangue and Rushing are unfortunate because they were unexpected, and they came at a time when the Supreme Court was actually growing and fulfilling its role.

"The resignations came completely out of nowhere for us all on the court," Shelton said.

Shelton said he was informed of Domangue and Rushing's resignations by a member of the Student Government Association, not by anyone in the Supreme Court. He added that neither of the former justices has tried to contact the members of the court to inform them of their official reasoning for quitting.

Although The Current Sauce was unable to reach Domangue for comment, SGA President Cody Bourque said the former chief justice's reasoning behind the resignation was related to conflicts with school.

"[Kyle] told me he his workload was becoming too strenuous," Bourque said.

Rushing, however, resigned so that he may be able to work with the SGA, which he officially joined March 2 following his resignation.

Rushing said in an interview that he simply prefers the way the SGA operates in comparison to the Supreme Court. He said he was a senator in his high school's student government and loved it.

Rushing added that he always enjoyed watching the NSU SGA at its Monday night meetings.

"The Supreme Court just didn't have enough continuous action for me," Rushing said.

Because he did not attend his first SGA meeting as a senator, however, Rushing could face automatic removal from office according to the SGA bylaws.

Rushing still has the opportunity to file an official excuse for his absence.

Rushing also said that he hopes the Supreme Court will continue to succeed and said he believes Shelton will do a fine job as interim chief justice because he is passionate about the court.

In addition to the two empty positions, Shelton said the Supreme Court will be hurting even more in the future after senior Justice Hannah Salter graduates.

Regardless of the number of open slots that will need to be filled, Shelton said he thinks the Supreme Court will be fine. He added that he has begun to find possible replacements for Domangue and Rushing.

"I feel confident that the court will be able to fill its positions and will be ready by August to go back to business," Shelton said.

Police Blotter

3/6
11:33 a.m.
Reports of subjects spraypainting a car

11:58 a.m.
The spray is spray snow

12:02 p.m.
Subjects advised to discontinue spraypainting cars

3/7
7:13 a.m.
Vehicle parked on walking track

3/9
11:29 a.m.
Report that glass fell out of the shuttlebus's door

The Current Sauce collects the police blotter from the NSU University Police.

Career fair lights path for students' future plans

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

Juniors, seniors and graduates from schools throughout northern Louisiana have the opportunity to dip their toes in the pool of employment at the first Louisiana Regional College Career Fair.

On April 4, the Shreveport Convention Center in Shreveport, La., will be playing host not only to NSU, but also to seven other universities.

The other universities include Bossier Parish Community College, Centenary College, Grambling State University, Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana Tech University, Southern University-Shreveport, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

"The eight universities and colleges are coming together and pooling their resources," Traci LaBom, career counselor and instructor, said.

"There are other universities that are bringing in other resources [and] companies that we normally wouldn't get to come to our university, [so] our students will still be able to have that exposure to them."

LaBom said the fair was created by the Louisiana Association of Colleges and Employers Employers.

She said the fair will give the students the chance to meet prospective employers from across Louisiana and surrounding states.

"[For] students who are looking for internships, this is a great opportunity," LaBom said.

In addition to finding internships, students may also find several employment opportunities.

"We're actually going to have places at the convention center for companies to interview on site," LaBom said.

"So there's a good chance for some students that [the employers] may pull them aside and interview them right then and there."

Brendon Mizener, senior music education major, said that he finds the career fair to be a great idea for students looking for jobs and internships.

"I think it's a fantastic opportunity, and as many students as [possible] should take advantage of it," Mizener said.

Mizener added that although the fair will be an excellent chance for some students to advance their careers, he questions whether or not the trip to Shreveport will be worth the drive for all students.

"It's sort of vague as to who will be able to benefit," he said.

There is no cost to participate in the career fair.

Students must, however, come in professional attire and bring several copies of their resumes.

Along with wearing the proper attire, students interested in this option are required to pre-registered by Monday at the Counseling and Career Services office in Room 305 of the Friedman Student Union.

Services will be available to any students who would like assistance with writing their resumes.

LaBom also encouraged students to take advantage of the free transportation provided by the Organizational Relief Fund.

The career fair will last from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Parkway Cinema Showtimes
Mar. 13 through Mar. 19

The Last House on the Left - R
Saturday & Sunday
1 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Mon-Thurs.
7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

Race to Witch Mountain - PG
Saturday & Sunday
12:45, 3:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Mon-Thurs.
6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

Watchmen - R
Saturday & Sunday
12:45, 3:45 p.m., 7 p.m.,
Friday, Mon-Thurs.
7 p.m.

Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail - PG13
Saturday & Sunday
12:45, 3:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.
Friday, Mon-Thurs.
6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.

Confessions of a Shopaholic - PG
Saturday & Sunday
12:45, 3:45 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.
Friday, Mon-Thurs.
7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.

Taken - PG13
Saturday & Sunday
1 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.
Friday, Mon-Thurs.
7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.

1011 Keyser Ave.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Student Media application forms and guidelines can be picked up in Room 108, Kyser Hall.

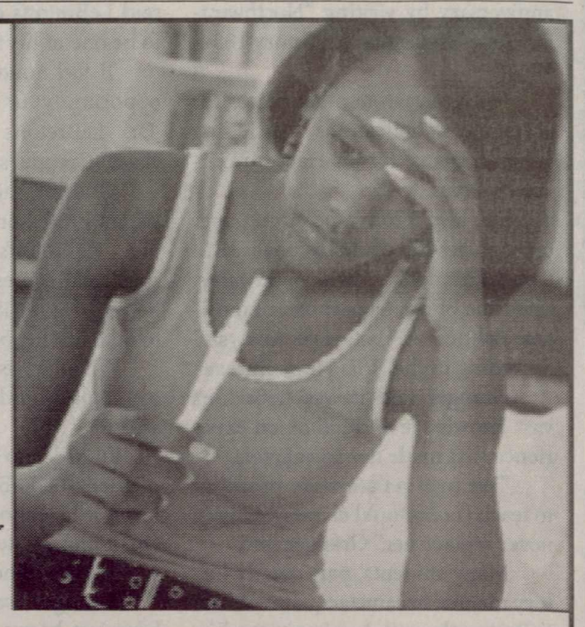
Available positions are:

- Editor in chief of Argus
- Editor in chief of The Current Sauce
- Editor in chief of the Potourri
- General Manager for KNWD 91.7 FM The Demon

Submit applications by April 1, 2009 at 1 p.m.

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208 WRAC

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sunday – Thursday
2ND FLOOR READING ROOM WATSON LIBRARY

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
March 11, 2009

NSU choral ensembles perform at annual spring concert

Magale Hall graced with presence of many talented student vocalists

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

The lights in Magale Recital Hall went dark and applause echoed through the hall as choir members walked onstage Thursday night.

If any last-minute nerves were left on the stage, they were immediately forgotten as the first note hit the air.

"When I was younger I got nervous before going on stage, but the longer I've been in choir, the easier it's gotten," senior sociology major Sarah Hunt said.

"These days, I don't have any stage fright at all." NSU Sings is an annual event.

This year, the concert featured the University Choir, Men's Chorus and Women's Chorus.

The University Choir was first to take the stage.

After an upbeat and powerful rendition of "Hallelujah from Mt. of Olives" by Ludwig van Beethoven, the choir performed "In Bright Mansions Above" by Roland Carter, which was dedicated to "the passing of someone closely involved with the Creative and Performing Arts Department," Director of the Women's and Concert Choir Chris Gilliam said.

Gilliam has been the Women's choir director for two years and is in his first year of directing the concert choir.

Gilliam said that he didn't always have a love for music, but it wasn't until he landed the lead role in his fifth grade school play that he realized his passion for singing and performing.

For Hunt, her passion for music began at an early age.

She began singing in the children's choir at church as soon as she was old enough to stand on her feet by herself and produce sound.

As she entered her sophomore year of high school, she said she gained a true appreciation for classical vocal music.

"When I began taking voice lessons from my teacher, Joey Winters, he taught me how to correctly use my voice to its fullest potential and showed me why classical music was just as fun and wonderful as any other music - if not better." Hunt said.

Now in her fourth year of choir, Hunt says she has learned how to blend easily with people around her and contribute to the choir's overall sound.

The Women's Chorus followed the concert choir with an interesting beginning to its first piece.

As members of the choir lined the walls of the hall going up the aisle, Gilliam faced the crowd and directed the women from the stage.

They concluded their portion of the concert with a fun and exciting piece called "Get On Board, Little Children" arranged by Caldwell and Ivory. The women clapped in rhythm with the song.

Applause erupted numerous times during the concert, and yet there were times when the audience was quiet and observant.

For sophomore health and human performance major Kimberly Brister, it was a performance that allowed hours of practice and dedication to shine on stage.

"The title says it all... NSU can sing," Brister said. "We have a lot of really talented singers at this school like Hannah Floyd and the entire men and women's chorus."

The final group of the evening was the Men's Chorus directed by Michael Rorex.

After an upbeat a cappella rendition of "Do You Fear the Wind?" by Garland and Leland Satern, the group surprised audience members with an additional selection, which was not in the printed program.

A group of selected men stepped out of the choir to perform "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

Choir member Allen Carpenter said that the selected group of men was put together by Rorex this semester to act as a recruiting group.

They will travel through parts of Texas to let people know what NSU has to offer. Even though Carpenter is a freshman and in his second semester as a choir member, he has already earned a solo verse in the tour ensemble performing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

"Singing is something that has influenced me since the day I was born," Carpenter, a music education major, said.

"My mom was a choir director, and I always went to her concerts."

For Gilliam, the performance was not about how well the students performed, but how much they have grown in knowledge and vocal skills this year.

"Not only are they growing as musicians, but I too am growing with them," Gilliam said. Gilliam also noted the assistance of other members of the Creative and Performing Arts Department, including Coordinator of Music Burt Allen.

"I am grateful for the voice faculty – Michael Rorex and Terrie Sanders – for their help with creating strong vocal ranges in all of the groups," Gilliam said.



Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce

The Northwestern State University Choir, directed by Professor Chris Gilliam, performs "Hallelujah from Mt. of Olives" at this year's "NSU Sings" program Thursday night in Magale Recital Hall.

Fast Fact

The effects of marijuana

It looks like...
Marijuana is a green or gray mixture of dried, shredded flowers and leaves of the hemp plant (Cannabis sativa).

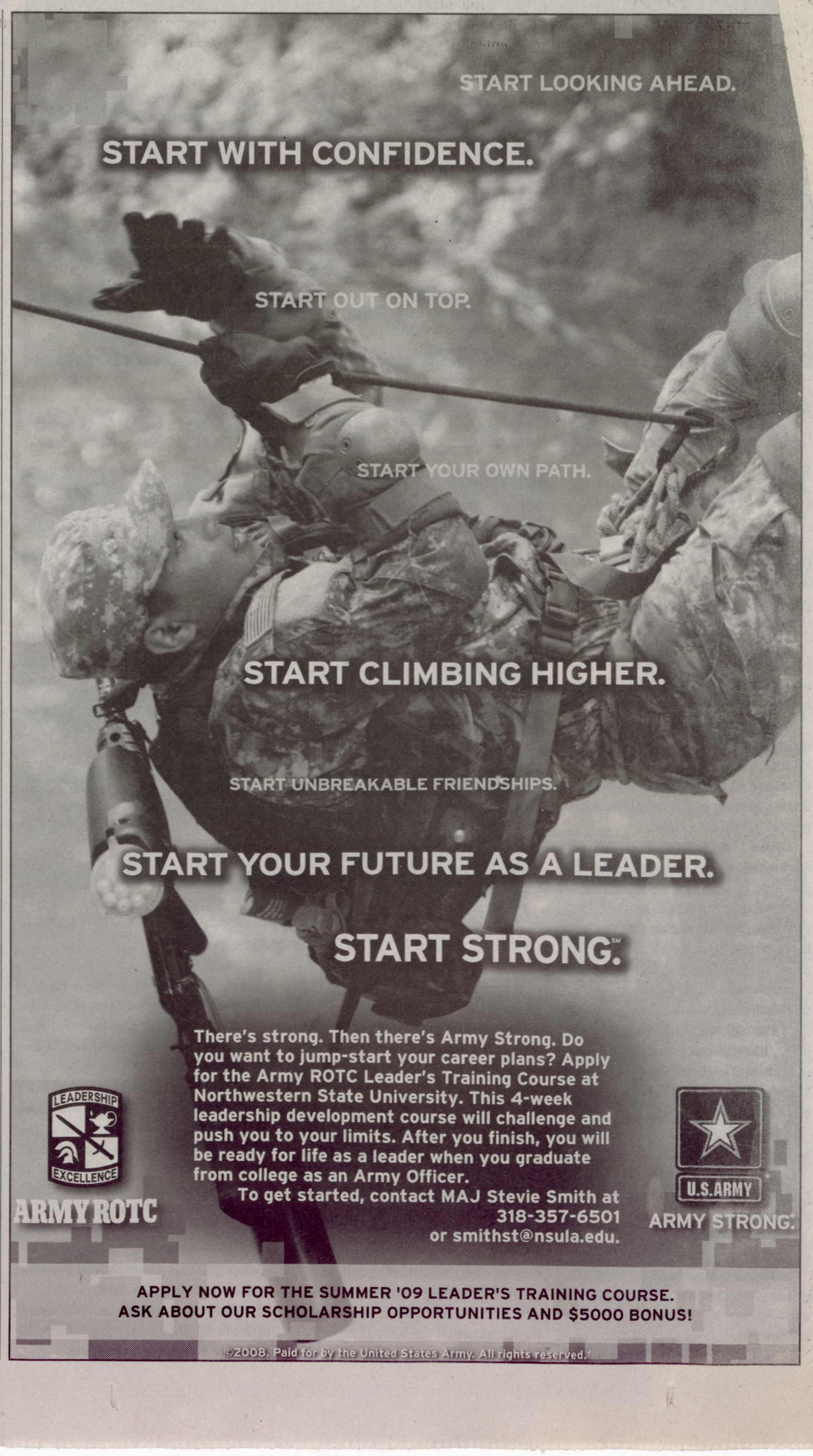
It's used as...
Most users roll loose marijuana into a cigarette called a "joint." Weed can be smoked in a water pipe, called a "bong," or mixed into food or brewed as tea. It has also appeared in cigars called "blunts."

Short-term effects
Short-term effects of marijuana include problems with memory and learning, distorted perception (sights, sounds, time, touch), trouble with thinking and problem solving, loss of motor coordination, increased heart rate, and anxiety. These effects are even greater when other drugs are mixed with weed. A user may also experience a dry mouth and throat.

Long-term effects
Marijuana smoke contains some of the same cancer-causing compounds as tobacco, sometimes in higher concentrations.Studies show that someone who smokes five joints per week may be taking in as many cancer-causing chemicals as someone who smokes a full pack of cigarettes every day.

Source National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and www.drugfree.org





Tori Ladd
Life Editor
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March 11, 2009

St. Patrick's 'just another day' to some NSU students

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

If you'd like a fairy or need a shoemaker, summon the Leprechauns; if you've have bad luck, call the Irish to bring the good luck of the Irish.

March 17 is commonly known as St. Patrick's Day.

On this day, people believed it to be the date of Saint Patrick's death.

The Irish have been observing this day for more than 1000 years, and people around the world celebrate this as his feast day.

During this time Irish families traditionally attend church and celebrate, dance, drink and feast on a traditional Irish meal of cabbage and bacon.

St. Patrick's Day ironically falls in the Christian season of Lent, during which Catholics abstain from eating meat on Fridays.

The Irish chose the color green because it reflects the coming of spring and the harvest.

In elementary school, anyone not wearing it is pinched.

College, however, is different.

"To me it's just another day. I wear what I want," senior social work major Kayla Viree said. "I am pretty sure it would be fun, but please don't pinch me."

In American history during the American Revolutionary War on March 17, 1776 the password of the day at General George Washington's Continental Army Camp was "Saint Patrick."

The date is observed as Evacuation Day, an official holiday in Suffolk County, Mass.

Currently, Massachusetts has the most Irish ancestry [24 percent] in the United States in terms of percentage of total population, according to history.com.

The Irish have been present in the United States since the 1820s.

Quite a few of the United States' most influential political, activist and entertainers are of Irish descent such as former U. S. President John F. Kennedy, George M. Cohan, James Braddock, Michael J. McGivney, Eugene O'Neill and Ed Sullivan, according to a Web site by the Ancient Orders of Hibernians.

The cities of Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Shreveport, La. celebrate Saint Patrick's Day during the first week in March according to each of the cities' official Web sites.

In 1962 the city of Chicago, Ill., city pollution-control workers used green dye to trace illegal sewage discharges, thus creating a St. Patrick's Day tradition.

People also started having parades in the United States.

To date, New York City has the biggest St. Patrick's Day Parade and is the oldest and largest civilian parade in the world, having at least 150,000 participants and 3 million people in attendance each year.

Senior business major David Holmes commented that the diverse nature of St. Patrick's Day traditions reflects the "melting pot" that our country has become.

"For the most part all people who reside in America have learned to get along and embrace each other's culture, and it is amazing," Holmes said.

St. Patrick's Day Interesting Facts

- It is considered lucky to find a four-leaf clover on St. Patrick's Day.
- The children and grandchildren of people born in Ireland can obtain dual citizenship with the U.S. and Ireland.
- Green beer is regular beer with 5 to 6 drops of food coloring in honor of St. Patrick's Day.
- More than 41.5 billion pounds of beef are produced each year for St. Patrick's Day, with the majority coming from Texas. In addition, more than 2.5 billion pounds of cabbage are produced. Most of the cabbage is grown in California.
- More than 8 million St. Patrick's Day cards are exchanged in America making today the ninth-largest card-selling occasion in the US.
- More than 94 million people plan to wear green on St. Patrick's Day.
- The original Guinness Brewery in Dublin has a 9,000-year lease.

A few of the Irish symbols for luck:

* Finding a penny and picking it up
* Finding a four-leaf clover
* Sneezing three times before breakfast
* Spilling wine while proposing a toast
* Having a ladybug land on you
* Seeing a spider spinning in the morning
* Dropping a glove
* Picking up a pencil in the street
* An itch on the top of your head

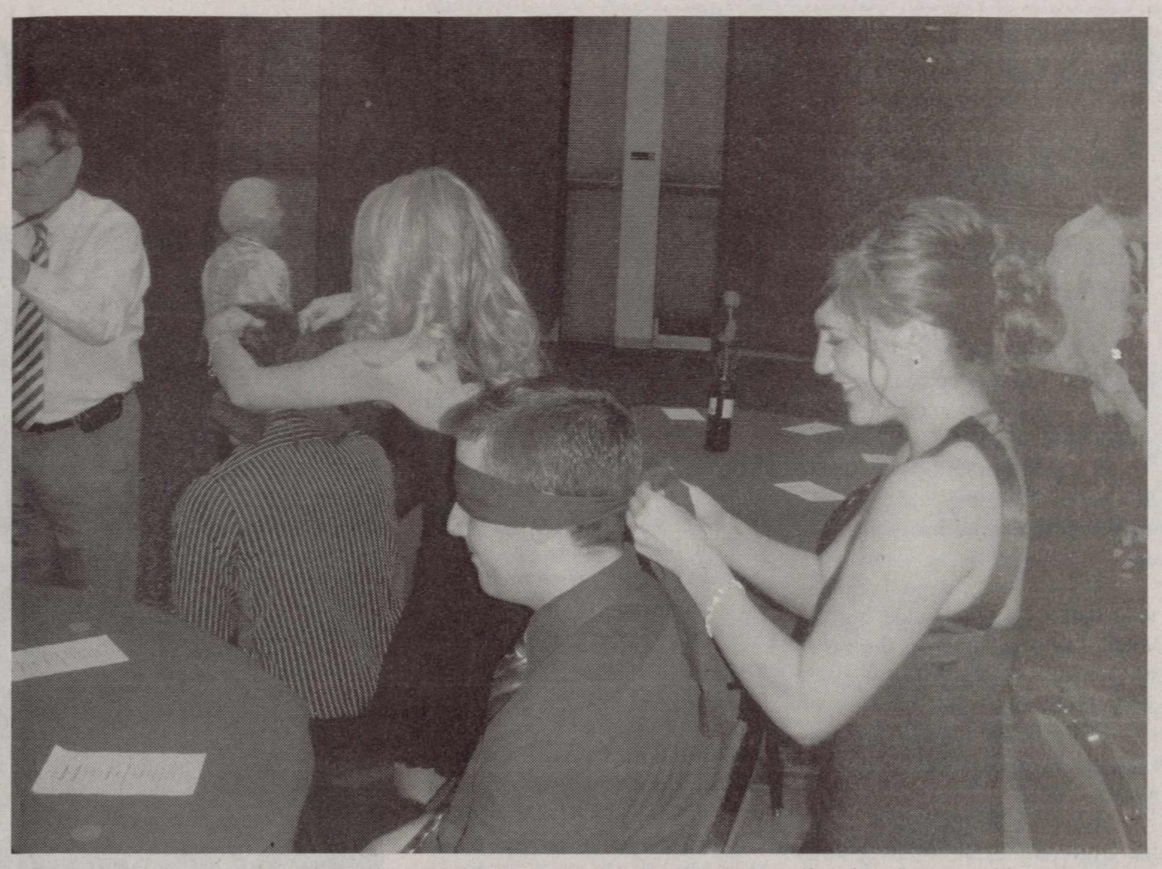


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce
Students blindfold each other at the Push America Empathy Dinner Tuesday night.

Pi Kappa Phi dinner pushes for America

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor
Taylor Graves
Sauce Reporter

At one of a dozen tables in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom Tuesday night, junior journalism major Cody Bourque leaned over his plate of lasagna to turn on his iPhone without using his hands.

The rest of the people at his table chuckled as they watched him repeatedly hit the touch screen with the tip of his nose.

"I'm updating Twitter," he said.

Across the table, another diner – who was blindfolded – said, "I feel so left out of this joke."

A few people chuckled, but a long pause followed as everyone realized the depth of his comment.

While the statement was offered in jest, it illustrated the alienation that people with disabilities encounter on a daily basis. Bourque explained that his work with such people and their families has inspired him to support Push America.

At Pi Kappa Phi fraternity's benefit banquet for Push America Tuesday night, three people at each table received a colored poker chip. Each color represented a different disability that the person was expected to portray for the rest of the evening. The rest of the people at the table were instructed to help their friends.

Senior theatre major Mandi Ridgdell explained that people with blue chips were "blind," those with white chips could not speak, and others – like Bourque – had to restrain their arms behind their backs to simulate the effect of not having arms. Bourque acknowledged that the exercise was a bit of a stretch.

"You can't say that being blindfolded is the same thing that blind people deal with – whether they're born with it or they encounter the disability later – but it's just a glimpse that allows you to empathize with them," he said.

The exercise might appear silly or even offensive to an outsider, but those who attended learned more than how to overcome the challenge of feeding lasagna to a friend.

Bourque's behavior illustrated the challenges that many physically disabled individuals face in today's society. Like many members of NSU's Beta Omicron chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, Bourque has devoted a significant amount of time and effort to promoting Push America, an organization that raises awareness and money for people with disabilities.

The purpose of this exercise was to encourage empathy for people with disabilities, as well as the numerous people who assist them in everyday activities. The organization also passes on core values of ability, teamwork, empathy and integrity to disabled people and the people who help them.

According to the organization's Web site, Push America programs were created to educate and provide a quality hands-on service experience for members of Pi Kappa Phi while enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. The biggest fundraisers Push America sponsors are the cycling events Gear Up Florida and Journey of Hope. Pi Kappa Phi members from across the country come to both events to raise money and meet people with disabilities.

Gear Up Florida is an 800-mile cycling event that averages $70,000 in profits, and Journey of Hope is the biggest national event for Push America. The 12,000-mile route begins in San Francisco, Calif., and Seattle, Wash., traveling through various cities before reaching Washington, D.C.

While raising more than $500,000 for Push America, the cyclists meet more than 100 communities on the route. The chapter tries to sponsor at least four Push America fundraisers each semester.

March 2-4 was a new one inspired by a fellow chapter. Members stayed on a scaffold for 48 hours straight, including two nights with 30-degree temperatures. The brothers sat in shifts outside the fraternity's house on University Parkway. Members of many sororities and fraternities stopped by the house to show their support and donate money.

"The best thing was so many [people] came and helped out and asked what Push was," Wil Adams, president and senior business administration major, said.

Adams said he hopes this event will become an annual fundraiser.

"I think it was a very good idea and can be improved for next year," Genny Broggi, sophomore social work major, said.

After two days, Pi Kappa Phi raised close to $800.

After the Empathy Dinner Tuesday night, Bourque explained that Push America stresses the difference between empathy and sympathy.

"Sympathy has that connotation that you're feeling sorry for somebody," he said.

Empathy, on the other hand, involves understanding and support instead of pity.

Bourque, who has participated in "friendship visits" with people with disabilities since high school, explained that a physical disability has nothing to do with the feelings and emotions a person can have.

The blindfolded student who missed out on the visual aspects of the Empathy Dinner, for example, was still able to appreciate the event and the conversation at his table.

"The joke was explained to him, and he got it," Bourque said.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce
Pi Kappa Phi member Cody Bourque demonstrates what life might be like without the use of his arms.

'Assassins' trust no one

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

The parking lot adjacent to the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) building was left sparsely populated Monday morning, when it is normally difficult to find a space.

This curious change was due in part to the strategies of several students who are taking part in the second annual "CAPA Assassins" game.

"This is a really great way to meet people because you're trying to find somebody you don't know, or you're looking for someone who doesn't know you," senior liberal arts major Joshua Nuss said.

Nuss, the treasurer of Phi Mu Alpha fraternity, is monitoring the game this year.

Once 71 students (and one faculty member) signed up, Nuss added their names to a list. Nuss assigned each "assassin" a "target," whom the assassins must now locate and "kill" with handheld water pistols.

The winner will receive a $25 prize, but the rest of the proceeds – including the $3 entry fee each assassin must pay to play – will go to the Grant High School band program.

"Assassins" has raised about $275 so far, Nuss said.

The game began Monday at midnight and will last until every player is "legally killed."

As of Tuesday at 4 p.m., 27 players had been eliminated.

Allen Carpenter, a freshman music education major, has not made any kills yet, but he said he's playing assassins simply because it's fun.

"You get to shoot people with a water gun and get away with it," Carpenter said.

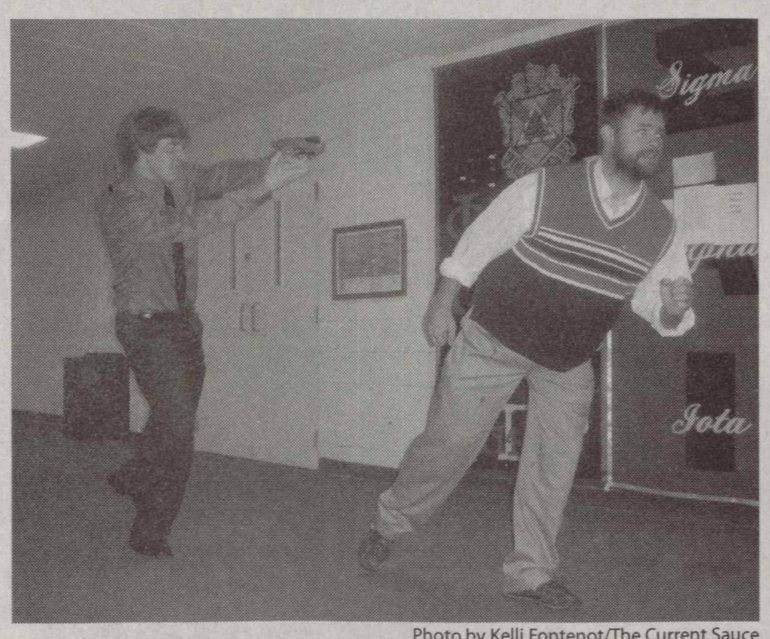


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce
Freshman Allen Carpenter chases senior Daniel Coffman out of the Creative and Performing Arts building.

Assassins must report their kills to Nuss, who ensures that kills are valid and keeps track of who is still alive in the game.

"You can make alliances with people, and you can break alliances with people," Nuss said. "You can sit outside of their house and wait for them to take out the trash and shoot them, which actually happened 10 minutes into the game."

While some view the game as a way to bond with their peers in the music department and form truces with each other, others prefer to sit back and watch the chaos.

"It's really great when those alliances crumble and fall," Nuss said.

Carpenter agrees with Nuss.

"It's a sure way to see who will stab you in the back real quick," Carpenter said.

Each assassin was provided with a detailed list of guidelines concerning forcible restraint, psychological manipulation and weapon restrictions. Nuss noted that assassins are only allowed to carry two small handguns filled with water.

It's only fair, Nuss said.

"If someone has a huge super soaker that can shoot 20 yards, there's no fun in that," Nuss said.

The competition will continue to heat up this week until there is only one student left standing.

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
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March 11, 2009

OPINIONS 5

Site thinks outside box

Richelle Stephens
Staff Columnist



Imagine the options that you had in discovering new music 10 years ago: the iPod was but a glimmer in Steve Jobs' eye; satellite radio was still a toy for the elite; and the local music scene, specialized magazines and college radio were a viable yet limited route away from the sphere of influence that MTV and Top 40 radio still held.

With the innovations made in the technology we now would take for granted since then, however, it is easier than ever to expand your listening repertoire.

I constantly lust after new music. Managing a college radio station – and the opportunity to hear new music before the general listening public can – only does so much for me. Sometimes my voracious appetite begs for more.

I'm a huge fan of black metal music. This subgenre of extreme heavy metal, for various reasons, will probably never crack the stratosphere of popular music. Therefore, I would typically devote a great bit of my free time to extensive research online to discover new bands.

Thanks to an established online "radio" service, however, I don't have to devote as much time as I did before in my quest for more music.

It wasn't until about a month ago – through a friend's Facebook status update, in fact – that I discovered Pandora online radio.

For those who have yet to peruse the site, it's quite the user-friendly software: by entering an artist into a search box, Pandora searches for similar artists and compiles a playlist for you to enjoy.

The method by which Pandora selects material for said playlist is indeed extraordinary. By utilizing data gathered through the Music Genome Project, which Pandora's creators have deemed "the most comprehensive analysis of music ever undertaken," the software uses such factors as melody and instrumentation methods to select the similar artists for the playlist.

I shall use a more common artist than that which black metal affords for my example. I listen to the Reba McEntire "station" quite frequently when I'm completing office hours at KNWD. Using the aforementioned method, Pandora has selected artists such as Brooks and Dunn, Trisha Yearwood and George Strait to compile my playlist based upon various vocal and instrumental factors.

However, the analysis put into each song is quite impressive. Researchers for the Music Genome Project analyzed such elements as tonality, harmony and musical roots for each song in the Pandora collection.

Said collection isn't your average Top 40 playlist either. Since I've been using the Web site for about a month, I've heard nearly every single on McEntire's 35-song "#1s" album, non-singles from at least 15 different artists and black metal bands that I had yet to discover.

Simply put, Pandora is one of the more comprehensive music listening services that I know of. With easy usability and playlists that reflect an exhaustive and thorough analysis of each song, Pandora is the real deal.

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www.thecurrentsauce.com

'His' perspective on pickup lines

Andrew Bordelon
Guest Columnist



As she walks so casually across the barroom floor, the neon light glistens off of her excessive make-up and attracts every drunken man in the bar.

From the high-tolerant and experienced fraternity brother to the first-time stumbling freshman, every man in the bar thinks of what he could say to lure such a beautiful girl his way.

Whether or not she is actually good looking is a discussion intended for sober girls involved in a serious commitment to their boyfriends or Jesus.

The discussion of how to capture the heart or at least attention span for at least one night with this girl is left to those men in a drunken stupor whose confidence has been boosted by several hours of excessive drinking.

It is amazing how much a man's personality changes after an hour or two at the bar.

My shyness, like any man's, slowly fades away with time at the bar. It has been said that to meet a good girl you should seek another location, such as: church, school activities, bingo or even paintball.

However, I do not know of another time when a man will be in his most honest state of mind than after an hour or two at the bar. In reality, most people say that you should be yourself with that special someone.

What better time is there than 40 minutes into a power hour with the help of a few shots of liquor to speak out those sober thoughts as drunken words to express your true feelings toward someone?

When you've got that much confidence in you, then just ask her, what that is in her eye? Oh wait, it's just a sparkle. Don't be afraid to ask, "Did the sun come up or did you just smile at me?" As long as you are asking questions, why not ask her if she would like to make like fabric softener and snuggle.

You should especially never forget to ask her if she dropped something, and do not forget to admit that it was just your jaw.

If you are going to go that far, then do not hesitate to let her know that if she was a booger, you would definitely pick her first.

After a night of rejection from such pickup lines, I am left to wonder why I would feel like a failure. Many times people point the finger of shame toward the man, but let's turn the tables.

I would like to ask you ladies what you were expecting. To those ladies who seem to go all out at the bar with their make-up and fancy clothes, were you expecting to see your knight in shining armor ride up on his white horse to sweep you off your feet at 2 a.m. among the crowd of drunken men stumbling with their drunken requests for a ride home to either your house or their own, claiming that you do not need your car keys to drive them crazy?

I am still amazed when young ladies are shocked that they do not meet their fairytale husbands at fine establishments like Antoon's, Yesterdays, Ron's or Strait Country – also known as Strait Ghetto.

However, if these ladies are still searching at such fine establishments, then I wonder if I still stand a chance to meet that special someone.

Some might meet their future spouse at a church service, crawfish boil, class group project or some other socially and sometimes religiously acceptable meeting place for a prospective marriage partner.

I agree that a man should strive to be as much of a gentleman as he can. However, the day I meet a girl that will not judge me when I use one of my favorite pickup lines, whose creator will remain anonymous, I will be able to pass out a happy man. "Excuse me miss, do you want to hook up or should I just apologize?"

'Her' response to pickup lines

Amanda Duncil
Guest Columnist



Some people think of pickup lines as being an art form.

There is a ridiculous amount of self-help books on the market that guarantee "fail-proof" lines that will attract women, but for any woman who has ever been the victim of one of these pathetic attempts, they know how unattractive it can be.

There are different types of pickup lines.

Some of the most common involve puns regarding appearance, such as "You're so hot, you must be the cause of global warming."

Other lines take a different approach, namely perversion.

They tend to be the most humorous, but when used in a realistic situation they are degrading. Most females do not respond positively to perverted remarks from random strangers.

Contrary to whatever people are told, telling someone something like "The word of the day is legs. Let's go back to your place and spread the word," is not a clever way of insinuating sex, and it is not going to prove very successful.

While most common pickup lines are mostly for entertainment purposes, there are some unconventional lines that people use to strike up conversation.

Usually it consists of a statement that is intended to draw attention, such as "Hey, does this smell like chloroform to you?"

Using lines is probably the worst way to get to know someone, especially when approaching a total stranger.

It gives bad first impressions of someone's personality and leaves little room for conversation.

How is a woman supposed to respond to a tactless comment about her looks?

It shows how few social skills a person possesses and quite possibly that the person is drunk.

When the night is over, the person who tries a pickup line like the one above will only be remembered by the woman he used it on as "that creepy chloroform guy," and he will exist as the object of numerous jokes among her friends.

Pickup lines are best left unused. Instead, people should make more of an effort to learn new ways to make contact with people that will not leave them feeling awkward or disgusted.

Half the Battle: Calm down, kids

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



Gov. Bobby Jindal has taken a lot of heat for his speech two weeks ago, but he really didn't screw the pooch as much as people say he did.

Go back and read the content of the speech without his voice. Good stuff, really and truly. Most of it was as hopeful as the material than Obama gave us last year.

However, his delivery was the weak part. Jindal is worrying those of us who have high hopes for his political career.

Jindal is falling into a deadly political trap.

His ambition is clouding his judgment, and he is leaving the state to tour abroad and visiting the national Republican strongholds to garner support.

Governor, don't lose sight of the state. Yeah, you mention us now and then, and that's cool, but come back and look like you're doing stuff.

You have a pretty good group working under you, but a body without a head is worthless. Worse yet, you should be laying low for a few months after the speech and all the heat you're taking. Pre-response, you were doing well enough to be mentioned in higher regard than 2012 hopefuls Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney.

Then again, Bobby, the reactions to your speech and Obama's plans are proof enough that this country overreacts to every situation brought in front of it.

For those of you in the dark, the Dow Jones is rallying after more than a week of plummeting. Yesterday, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 379 points – the biggest rally of the year – while Standard & Poor's 500-stock index rose 7.1 percent.

Every time Obama and his administration made some announcement about the economy and what they were doing to help, it seemed the markets reacted in abject fear.

Now, with Citigroup announcing a profit in the first two months of the year, the markets seem to have regained their confidence.

And this is all despite critics warning us to be wary of these temporary rises in the market.

After all, frequent ups and downs are what make the market so risky to begin with.

We see something big or small and react to it in very disproportionate ways. That's just how we are. We blow up at every crisis and issue we're presented with.

Attorney General Eric Holder called us a "nation of cowards" when it comes to race.

Really?

We spent a year and a half going "There is a black man running for office… are we OK with this?"

During the campaigns, you could have turned to any news stations, waited 10 minutes, and would have heard at least one story about Obama being black and how it affects the race.

Alternatively, we would have seen images of hate crimes committed on Obama supporters.

Yeah, we're cowards.

Wait until 2012, when Jindal and Obama are at odds and running for the White House. I'm excited because no matter who wins, there's always a chance South Carolina wil secede from the Union, and do we really need them, anyway?

When this happens, we can be cowards, but until then, America, calm down. It's not the end of the world. The four horsemen aren't nigh.

At least, not until Tim LaHaye says so.

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Sodexo falls short of student's expectations

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar



As adolescents suffer the "cut the cord" syndrome, we desire independence, and we want to get out and experience the world.

Going off to college is a part of that world experience, but what happens when you get there?

You work hard, meet new people and don't have to answer to mommy and daddy every hour on the hour, and most important, you have freedom, right?

Yes and no.

I've encountered more hindrances on my freedom than I expected. I've also faced conditions I never thought I would have.

A few days ago I traveled to Iberville Hall to sit down and talk with a friend of mine, who happens to be my roommate, as she ate lunch before her class. I had already eaten earlier. My only intention was to talk to her.

When we reached the front desk I was forbidden entrance because I had eaten previously.

Excuse me, but why can't I just sit down?

It's not as if I was going to run up to the line to "sneak" food I'd already paid $1,012 plus tax for anyway. And even if I did want to eat again I had one other 'rule' stopping me.

I couldn't eat again until around three or so because you can only eat once during the breakfast, lunch and dinner periods.

How unfair is that? I should be able to eat when I like.

Another problem I have with Iberville is the food. The company Sodexo provides the food we eat. Why is the food in Iberville extremely different than the food in Vic's if it comes from the same company?

I can remember eating glorious macaroni and cheese in Vic's and eating a dry clump of cheese and pasta in Iberville. If college is about choice, why didn't I have the choice of where to spend my money? Why couldn't my $1,000 all go toward Vic's? It just doesn't make sense to me.

Adam Thursby, a freshman at the University of California Riverside, feels the same way, and I'm sure others do.

He described a meal he ate once as some sort of "unidentifiable beef." Are we getting our money's worth? I just don't think so.

Bruce Horovitz of USA Today reports that companies like Aramark and Sodexo are thinking of getting rid of lunch trays to limit piling dishes that contain heaps of food "students only sample then toss." OK. That will save more energy, but why should we be subjected to food we'll only taste and throw away? Isn't the bigger picture that the food is disgusting to begin with?

We pay too much.

Parents and students go broke and bury themselves in debt because of college.

And while education is the primary and principal thing – an enjoyable, livable atmosphere should also be a concern. If we are to sometimes live on campus and dine on campus we should enjoy it.

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thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Lyles leads Demons, sets two records

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Junior second baseman Chase Lyles blasted a school record six hits in the Demons' 10-6 extra-inning win at Tulane University March 3.

Lyles set another school record, hammering three doubles, leading the Demons to an 8-6 win over conference rival McNeese State University in the Demons' conference opener.

"He has always had the ability to hit, but he's such a smart hitter," Head Coach Jon Paul Davis said of Lyles. "He's getting his pitch, and he's putting good wood on it. He's driving balls. There are no cheapies right now. He's hitting everything on the screws. He has really evolved into a complete baseball player and a really good hitter."

The win at Tulane is the first victory over the Green Wave in more than 20 years and only the third win in 14 all-time meetings, according to nsudemons.com.

"The way we battled and competed at Tulane, especially Tuesday night, I was really proud of our guys," Davis said. "It's a tough place to win."

NSU took a 7-6 lead in the 10th inning when junior catcher Garrett Vaughn opened the scoring with a two-out solo home run. The scoring continued when junior outfielder Eric DeBlanc singled before junior shortstop Trent Grondin scored DeBlanc on a triple.

Junior center fielder Dominic Gamboa then singled, scoring Grondin, extending the lead to 9-6. Justin O'Neal singled, putting runners at the corners, and Lyles recorded his school-record hit to put the lead at 10-6. All of the Demons' extra-inning runs came with two outs. Freshman pitcher Chad Sheppard earned the win, pitching three scoreless innings, giving up only three hits and striking out one.

The following afternoon, the Demons' offense was not quite as explosive, falling 12-3 in the series finale with the Green Wave.

NSU's starting pitcher Ben Rodriguez took the loss after giving up a grand slam in the first inning, recording no outs.

A day after setting an NSU record, Lyles went 1 for 3 at the plate, with one RBI. Tulane held a 4-2 lead after one inning, but NSU cut it to 4-3 after junior outfielder Tyler Baisley reached base on an error and eventually scored on a passed ball.

The Green Wave extended its lead, scoring three runs in the fourth and sixth innings.

Leading the way for the Green Wave were Josh Prince, who finished 3 for 4 with an RBI and two runs scored, and Drew Allain who added a three-run home run in the sixth inning.

Despite the mid-week loss, NSU entered the conference-opener with a strong showing against the Cowboys. Led by Lyles' record-setting performance, the Demons won the conference-opener 8-6 over the Cowboys. The Demons pounded out 13 hits, behind senior pitcher Jimmy Heard's performance to stay perfect on the season. Heard improved to 2-0 on the season after tossing 6 2/3 innings, giving up two runs on six hits while striking out two.

Sheppard earned his first collegiate save, pitching the last two innings and allowing no runs, one hit and two strikeouts. The next day, the Demons improved to 2-0 in conference, winning the series in another thriller. Beau Snodgrass, who entered the game as a pinch hitter in the ninth inning, belted a two-out, three-run homer to put the Demons on top 10-9.

McNeese forced the Demons to rally, despite an early 4-0 lead for NSU. Steady bullpen pitching kept the Demons in the game, after starting pitcher Kyle Broughton gave up eight runs and nine hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Colin Bear relieved Broughton, and retired 10 of the 11 batters he faced. Bear got the win, while Ryan Zimmerman picked up his first career save, striking out two batters in the bottom of the ninth.

"Getting the series win at McNeese was huge," Davis said. "That's arguably the toughest place in the conference to play."

NSU and McNeese concluded the three-game series Sunday, as the Cowboys salvaged what they could with a 15-14 win. The teams combined for 29 runs and 31 hits, eight of which were home runs. Each team hit four home runs.

The Demons' bats were alive early, jumping to an early 7-0 lead. The Cowboys rallied to an 8-7 lead after a seven-run second inning, then extended the lead to 12-8 in the fourth after the first of two three-run home runs by McNeese's Lee Orr.

"We had the opportunity to sweep Sunday, but we just got a bad start," Davis said. "We almost overcame it. Our hitters did a good job of battling and competing to get us back in, and our bullpen, late in the game, did a job of holding it, giving us a chance to win the ballgame."

Lyles continued his domination at the plate, drilling two home runs in the contest. His second cut the Cowboys' lead to 12-9, but Orr's second homer put MSU up 15-9.

Senior first baseman Justin O'Neal smashed his first career grand slam in the eighth inning, cutting the lead to 15-14, after Snodgrass got an RBI pinch-hit single.

The Demons' starting pitcher Clayton Cooper took the loss after throwing only 1 2/3 innings. Cooper gave up nine runs, all earned, on nine hits. The Demons' matchup against the Texas A & M Aggies today has been postponed.

"We're looking to go in and get a 'W' [win]," Davis said of the upcoming game. "We're looking to go in and compete hard and take it right to them, especially with the way we're swinging the bats.

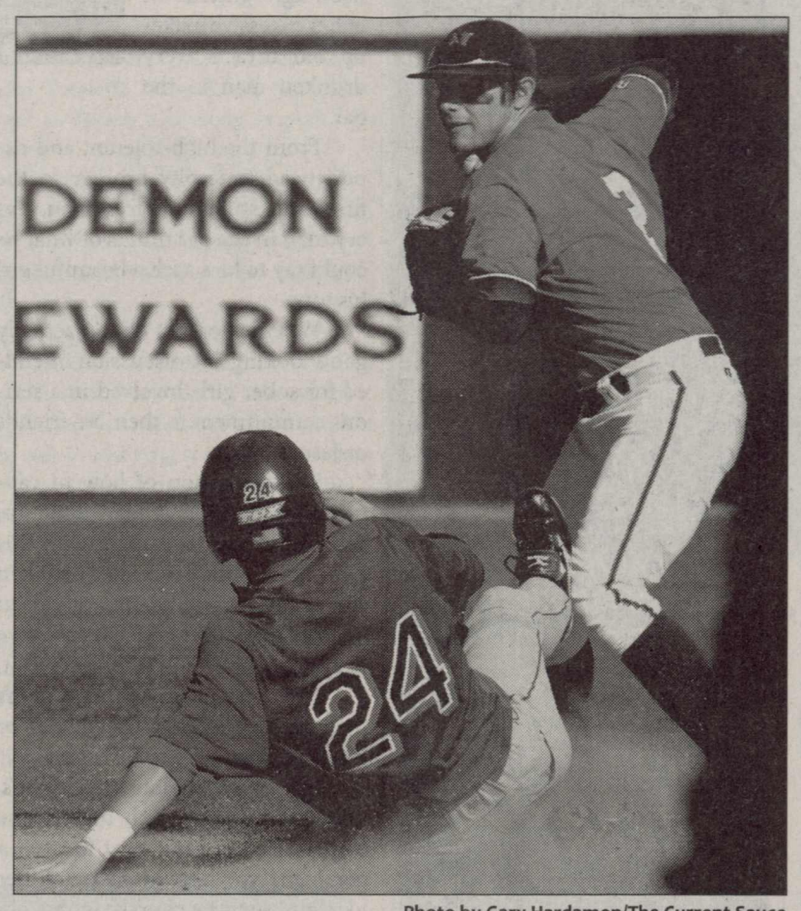


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Junior second baseman Chase Lyles (2) turns a double play.

Track team displays impressive showing at NSU Relays

Yarbrough leads Demons to claim top spots in hammer throw

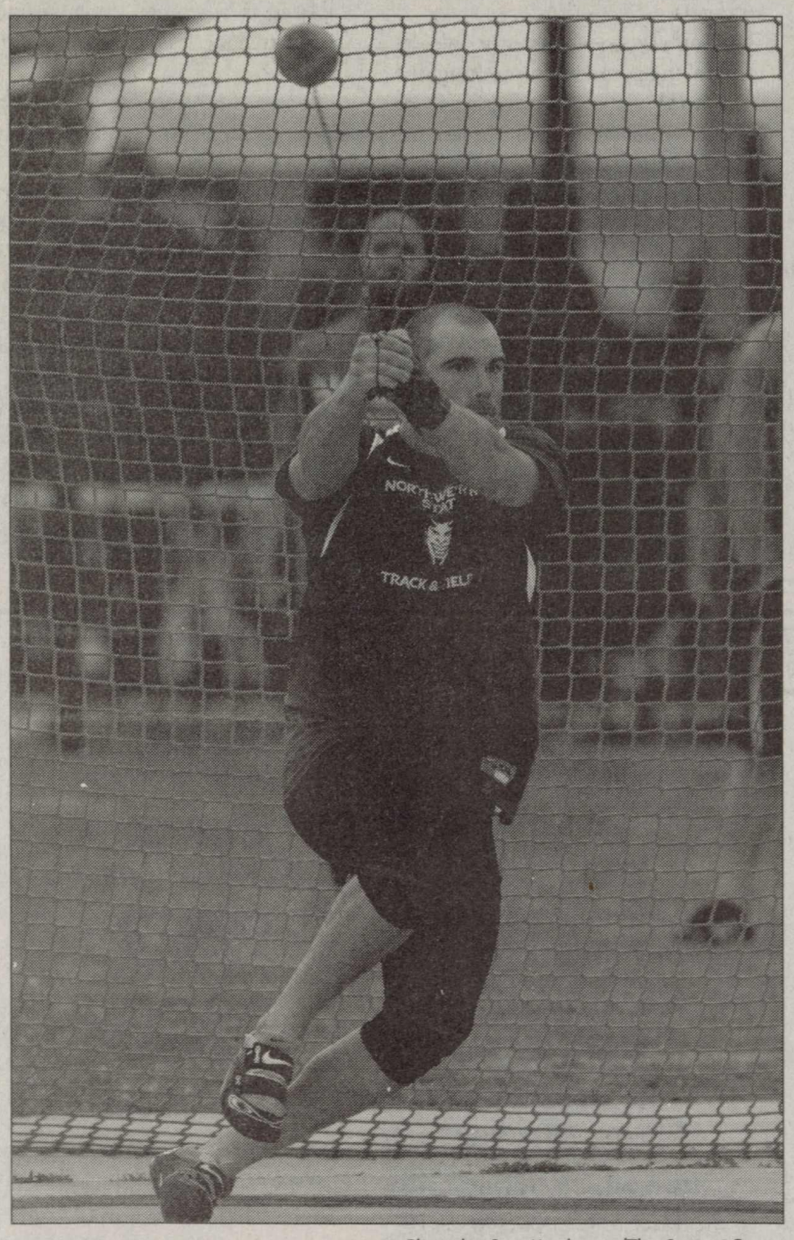


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Senior Daniel Yarbrough places second in the men's hammer throw at the Northwestern State Relays on March 7, 2009.

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

NSU really ran away with the competition in the field events as the 2009 outdoor track season officially got underway with the annual Northwestern State Relays last weekend at the Walter P. Ledet Track Complex.

Junior DeJon Griffin broke a school and complex record with her winning accumulative score of 174-07 meters in the women's hammer throw. Her longest single throw was 53.21 meters, more than 11 meters more than the next best. Senior Daniel Yarbrough won the men's hammer throw with his longest throw of 57.13 meters.

Sophomore Greg Hall set a personal best on his way to the top of the podium in the men's high jump, with a jump of 6-6 3/4.

Sophomore Christopher Oyeku placed second in the men's long jump with a jump of 6.94 meters. His jump was only one hundredth of a meter behind the winner from Grambling.

Freshmen Calvin Smith, Bradford Matthews and Chris Greer came in third, fourth and fifth place respectively in the men's triple jump. Their jumps were all within seven hundredths of a meter from each other with Smith's at 14.21 meters, Matthews' at 14.14 meters and Greer's at 14.07 meters.

NSU claimed the top two spots in the women's shot put with freshmen Chantel Bratton and Leslie Jordan claiming first and second place. Bratton's throw was 13 meters and Jordan's throw was just a bit under that with 12.33 meters. Corey Jones claimed the bronze spot for the Demons in the men's shot put with a throw of 14.63 meters.

Jordan also finished second in the women's discus throw with a throw of 39.67 meters. DeJon Griffin came in third in the same event with a toss of 38.85 meters. NSU had a clean sweep in the men's event with seniors Corey Jones and Daniel Yarbrough and freshman Buck Thompson claiming first, second and third in the discus throw. Their throws were 52.23 meters, 52.18 meters and 50.20 meters respectively.

Junior hurdler Michael Hill placed second in the men's 110-meter hurdle with a time of 14.51 seconds.

Freshman Lawana Perkins finished just off the podium in the fourth spot of the women's 1,500-meter run with a time of 5:21.17.

NSU won the women's 1,600-meter sprint medley with sophomore Andrea Warren and juniors Jessica Tuck, Jazmen Williams and Phyllis Iheanacho in 4:08.29.

NSU picked up a win in the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:12.46 from junior Michael Batts, junior Michael Green, sophomore Jeremy Thomas and senior Chris Pearson. The relay team won by nearly four seconds in front of Stephen F. Austin University.

Overall the NSU men's track and field team picked up four wins at the NSU Relays. The NSU women also had a good showing, collecting three wins of their own. The NSU track and field team now looks forward to the Cowboy Relays hosted by McNeese State University.

For the online exclusive stories on the Lady Demons softball and tennis teams, visit

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Demons finish season

Seniors lose last three games of career

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Demons couldn't find a way to end their season on a positive note, losing three games in a row, including a 10-point loss to Southeastern Louisiana University at home on Senior Day.

NSU recognized five seniors, three from the varsity squad – guard Keithan Hancock and forwards Kalem Porterie and Deividas Petravicius – and two from the junior varsity team. The Demon coaching staff moved up Jin Cheng and Brandon Gregory from JV to dress out for the last game of the season.

The Demons dropped to an early 10-2 deficit, but they battled back to take the lead 23-30 late in the first half. The Lions out-powered the Demons, outscoring NSU 10-2 on second-chance points in the first half, leading at halftime 28-26.

SLU's Warrell Spann cleaned the glass, pulling down a game-high 15 rebounds, while teammate Patrick Sullivan grabbed 14 of his own. The Lions managed to out-rebound the Demons 54-36. Southeastern collected a staggering 18 offensive boards, leading to 22 second-chance points and 40 points in the paint.

"We really had a hard time on the boards, and that's been one of our strong suits all year," head coach Mike McConathy said. "I don't know if we were spending too much locked up on people, or if we weren't just getting to the ball."

Freshman forward William Mosley led the Demons in rebounding with nine, while junior guard Damon Jones was the only Demon to score in double figures with 19. Southeastern's Brandon Fortenberry netted a game-high 20.

The Demons kept the game close for the majority of the second half, but the Lions were able to pull away midway through the second half. NSU trailed by two with 10 minutes remaining, but SLU opened up its lead to as much as 13 in the final minute.

The Lions held on to the lead, walking out of Prather Coliseum with a 79-69 win. Southeastern improved to 7-9 in conference play, earning the eighth and final spot in the State Farm Southland Conference Tournament.

The Demons dropped their conference match in Huntsville to Sam Houston State University 84-66. NSU never led in the game, trailing by as little as one with four minutes left in the first half, but the Bearkats responded with an 11-2 to end the first half up by nine. An 11-0 run early in the second half pushed the lead to 18. The Demons were never able to get any closer than 15.

"They do great job of making their shots, and when they do that, they are a very good team," McConathy said of the Bearkats. "When they missed a few shots, we were able to get back in the flow of the game and really compete."

Deividas Petravicius and Michael McConathy led the Demons in scoring, each with 14. The Bearkats had two players crack the 20-point plateau. Ashton Mitchell scored a game-high 24, while teammate Corey Allmond netted 21.

Porterie and Hancock wrap up their four-year Demon careers, while Petravicius concludes his career after two years with NSU.

Women earn tournament berth, face familiar Southeastern team

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The Lady Demons basketball team limps its way into the Southland Conference Tournament with a loss to Southeastern Louisiana University to wrap up its regular season.

NSU finished the season at 17-12 overall and 9-7 in the SLC, good enough for the sixth spot in the SLC Tournament.

The Lady Demons played their last home game at Prather last Wednesday, and were victorious against the Sam Houston State Ladykats, 85-82. This wrapped up an almost perfect home record (13-1) for the Lady Demons. It was also Senior Night, where the basketball team recognized its two senior athletes, Renotta Edwards and Akilah Givens, in pre-game ceremonies.

The Lady Demons had six different players score in double digits. Sophomore forward Jessica McPhail led NSU in scoring with 14 points. Sophomore guard Brooke Shepherd and junior guard Anna Cate Williams both scored 12 apiece.

Freshman forward Britany Kinlaw had a double double with 10 points and a team-high 10 rebounds.

The loss to 69-64 SLU not only was a blow to the record, but it was also the Lady Demons' chance at splitting the SLC East title.

Thanks in part to Shepherd and junior guard Lyndzee Greene, who both had a team-high 15 points, the Lady Demons kept the second half close the entire half. NSU finally took the lead with 5:13 left in the second half, but it was short-lived.

On the next possession for the Lady Lions they went up by the score of 60-59. The last time the score would be tied was at 64-64 with 2:12 left in the game. Then the Lady Lions went on a 7-0 run to end the game.

Even with the loss, the Lady Demons will still get a chance at revenge against the Lady Lions. They will be playing each other once again in the first round of the SLC Tournament.

On the bright side for the Lady Demons, freshman point guard Demetria White was named SLC Freshman of the Year and All-SLC Second Team. The coaches of the SLC and the Sports Information directors voted on the SLC Freshman Award.

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

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Saturday 74°/52°

Sunday 75°/53°

Monday 73°/44°

Tuesday 71°/45°

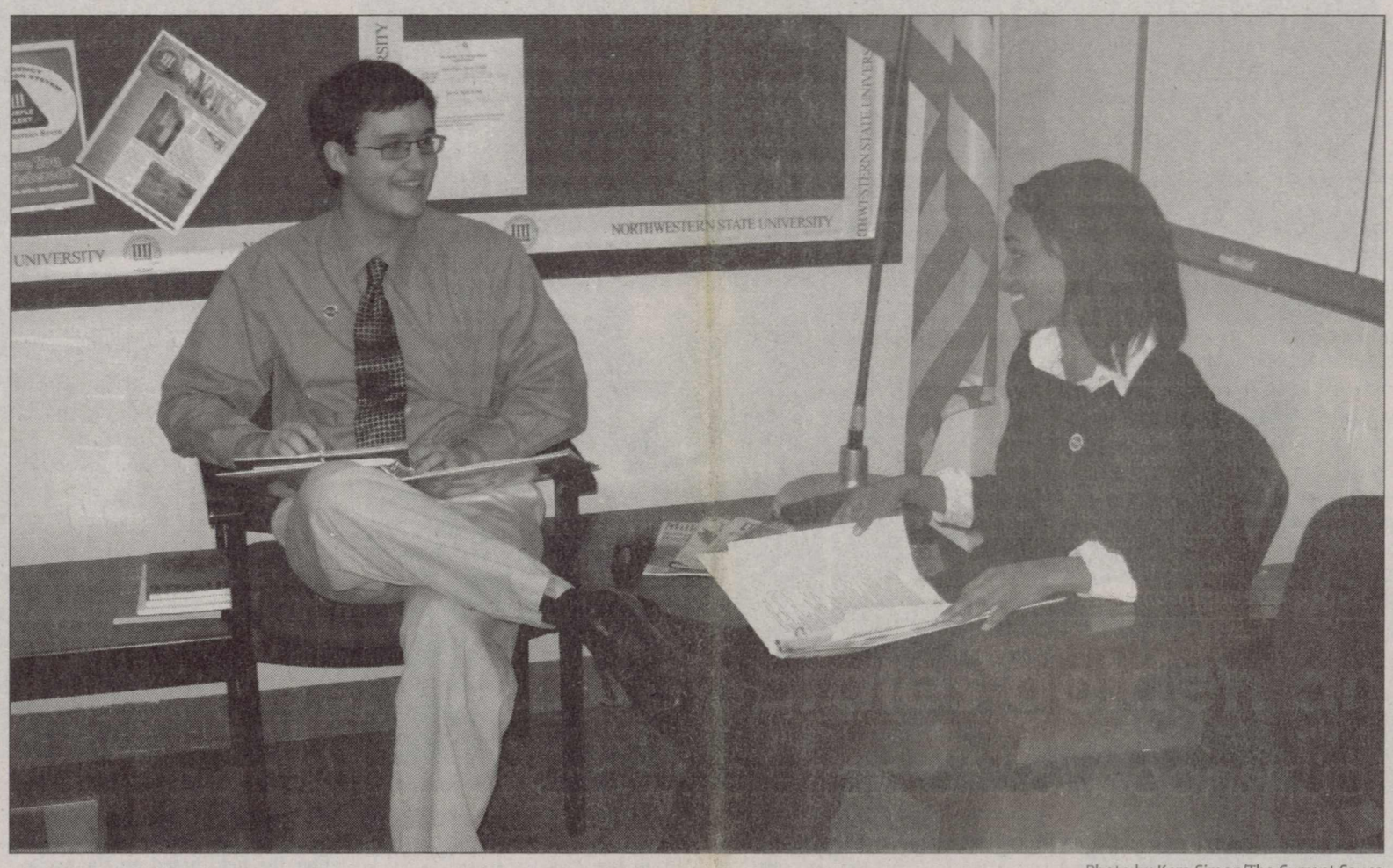


Photo by Kera Simon/The Current Sauce

Scholars' College students Mathew Morrison and Kayla Wingfield discuss their agenda as they approach the Student Government Association campaign trail. Morrison and Wingfield are running for vice president and president, respectively.

SGA presidential race heats up

Two teams to face off for first election in four years

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

Liberal arts majors Kayla Wingfield and Mathew Morrison filed an intent-to-run form for the SGA presidential seat on Friday, making for the first true SGA election in the past four years.

Last week, The Current Sauce reported that Jason Thibodeaux, junior history major, and his running mate Chris Sanders, sophomore history major, were the only students who applied for the SGA president and vice-president positions.

In previous years, presidents have run unopposed. On Friday, the last day to declare candidacy in the elections, all of that changed.

"I saw an opportunity, and I decided to rise to the challenge. I initially wasn't sure that I wanted to take a leadership position, because I know it is a very large responsibility," said Wingfield, a senior in the Louisiana Scholars' College. "In the interest of the students, I thought it would be good to give them a choice."

Wingfield said she waited until the last day to turn in the intent-to-run form because she was hesitant, knowing that she would be writing her thesis during her presidency if elected.

However, since most of her research is done, Wingfield said she plans to write her thesis over the summer so that it does not interfere with her SGA responsibilities.

"I wasn't sure that I wanted to do it, but then I realized I would look back on my experience in college and feel like I missed an opportunity," Wingfield said. "I feel like I have the qualifications and the drive to serve the students, and I feel like it would be a dishonor for me to just sit on that talent."

Wingfield and Morrison's platform is focused on uniting the campus in order to raise student morale, which would in turn lead to better academic performance.

"My main focus is to improve the academics of the study by an alternate approach to just raising GPAs," Wingfield said. "If the students are happy with their experience on campus, if they feel like their needs are being met emotionally and socially, then I believe they will be more inclined to perform better in academics."

Morrison said they want to solve the problems involving students and student life offices, including housing and food services, by acting as a bridge of communication between students and the administration.

They also plan to help improve the communication of RSOs and Greek life.

"If we get these organizations working together, Greeks and non-Greeks, academic RSOs non-academic RSOs, it promotes a sense of unity in the campus," Morrison said. "And that ultimately provides school spirit, and we believe that it will enhance the quality of the students' experience at Northwestern."

Before the candidates can put their words into action, the electoral board must oversee their campaigns.

"It's kind of like re-inventing the wheel," the other SGA presidential candidate, Jason Thibodeaux, said of the whole election and campaign process. "We have an election board that hasn't run an election in a long time."

The eight-member committee oversees the election process. They are in charge of penalizing candidates who violate the Election Code, obtaining campaign budgets from those running for positions, publicizing the election and voting procedures, counting the ballots and announcing the results.

SGA presidential candidates are not required to campaign, but this year's candidates both have plans to get the word out.

Campaigning is defined by the SGA Election Code as "any paraphernalia displaying the name of sought position of the candidate in addition to any vocal campaigning done by the candidate."

Story continues on page 2...

Criminal justice department offers tuition assistance to reserve officers

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

Only four students have submitted applications for the newly implemented Reserve Tuition Assistance program, which gives $500 awards to criminal justice majors who add firsthand crimefighting experience to their resumés.

Joe Morris, head of NSU's criminal justice department, said students who work 100 hours as part of the program will receive $500 toward tuition per quarter.

The academy for this program will begin at the end of this month.

In a small city such as Natchitoches, seven police officers might seem like a sufficient amount of protection to some, but there are times when the police department needs additional assistance to keep citizens safe.

"When you look at the Christmas festival, you get thousands of people here, and that's when this program will really come in handy," Morris said.

Lt. Guy Fletcher of the Natchitoches Police Department said the Christmas festival bumps Natchitoches' population of 20,000 up to approximately 100,000 each year.

The police department brings in officers from around the state, totaling 180 officers on traffic and patrol duty.

"Even though Natchitoches doesn't have an ordinance for it, people have learned the hard way that when you have an event with a lot of people there, you've got to have security," Fletcher said.

The reserve officer program has diminished in size over the years because at one point, the department was hiring reserves as full-time officers, Fletcher said.

"At one point, we were hiring from our reserves. So, we hired them all, and we never replaced them," Fletcher said.

Though some police departments do not consider reserve work as actual job experience, others look at it as a valuable step up from having just a college degree.

Even if they don't get hired right away, Morris said the educational experience is worth the time commitment.

Story continues on page 2...

Williamson Hall celebrates golden anniversary

Rededication marks completion of $6M construction project

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

The department of engineering technology celebrated the rededication of Williamson Hall Friday.

This monumental event signified the 50th anniversary of the building and formally debuted the new facility, which was recently completed for the spring semester.

As part of the rededication ceremony, Chef Tod Barrios and his students of the Family and Consumer Sciences presented their food for the audience.

Costing approximately $6 million dollars, the building includes updated laboratories and spacious, wheelchair-accessible classrooms.

For two years Dodd Hall housed the department of engineering technology while Williamson was being renovated.

Space was scarce in Dodd, however, which resulted in not having a place for engineering equipment.

Students and faculty agreed that space is one of the greatest assets of Williamson.

Freshman electronic engineering major Jeffrey McNear said he is glad to have laboratories, especially for the electronic engineering equipment.

"It's great because now we have entire labs to put our equipment in," McNear said.

"The industrial engineering majors have their labs and us electronic guys have ours."

Thomas Hall, engineering technology department head, concurred.

He added that the additional space provides "a much better environment for learning and working."

Some other highlights of Williamson are a new air conditioning and heating system, plumbing system, wiring and data ports.

The new wheelchair-accessible classrooms were made possible by raising the sunken floors of the early building.

Also, in contrast to the flat roof of the original building, Williamson now has a pitched roof and foyer, which Hall believes adds "character."

The building also has brickwork identical to the brickwork of older buildings on campus like Caspari Hall.

"The thing the building needed was modernization," Hall explained.

Aside from the contemporariness of the department, Hall commented on the origin of the blueprint for Williamson and the smoothness of the renovation process.

Two students worked on ideas for the building as a senior project and the department along with their own ideas, presented them to Richard Leblanc Architects, Inc. and Williamson hall became a reality.

"We had a very good relationship with the architect and the contractor," said Hall.

Hall said another integral person in getting the renovation of Williamson off the ground was NSU President Randall J. Webb.

"[Webb] was instrumental in getting the project pushed through the legislature and the Board of Regents," Hall added.

Webb said he was in favor of the renovation of Williamson since the beginning of his presidency.

Now that the project is complete, Webb said he is pleased with the new facility.

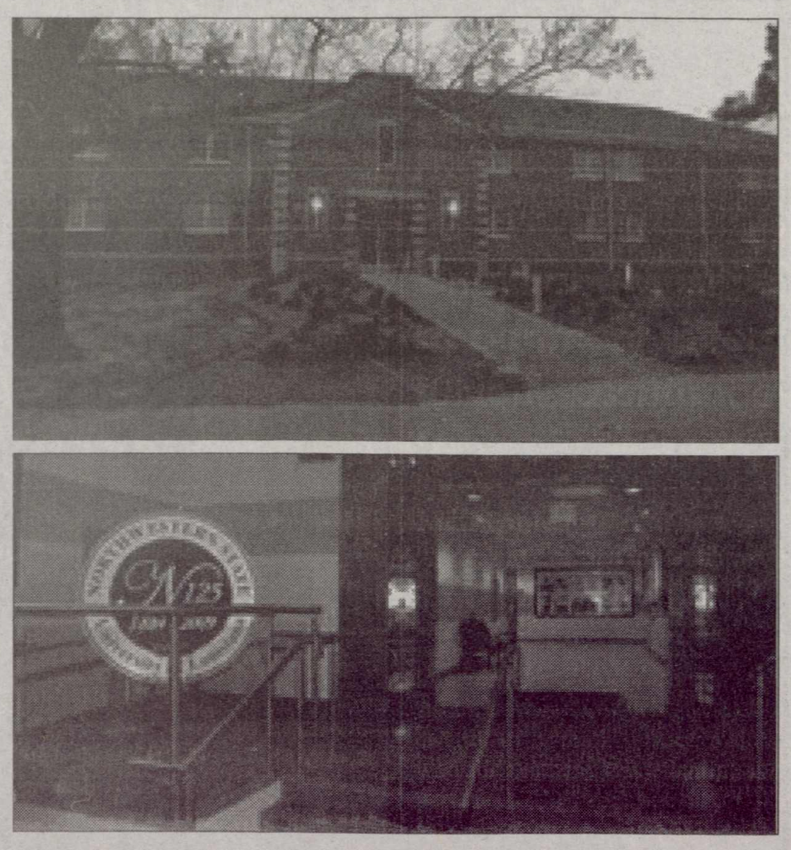


Photo by Thomas Hall/The Current Sauce

NSU recently rededicated Williamson Hall, which will house the department of engineering technology.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
March 18, 2009

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"Knowing"
Rated PG-13
Saturday - Sunday
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6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"The Last House on the Left"
Rated R
Saturday – Sunday
1 p.m., 3:45 p.m.,
7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"Race to Witch Mountain"
Rated PG
Saturday - Sunday
12:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.,
6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"Watchmen"
Rated R
Saturday – Sunday
12:45, 3:45 p.m., 7 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
7 p.m.

"Tyler Perry's Madea
Goes to Jail"
PG-13
Saturday – Sunday
12:45, 3:30 p.m.
6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.

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Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Mathew Morrison and Kayla Wingfield will run against Chris Sanders and Jason Thibodeaux for vice president and president, respectively. Elections will take place April 1.

SGA Elections
cont. from p.1

Since the SGA is the student liaison between the administration and the student body, both candidates said that it is important to get to know the voices of the students.

Thibodeaux said he and Sanders did not start really campaigning until this week, so that will give him and Wingfield the chance to start on an even field.

Thibodeaux and Sanders do most of their campaigning on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when their class schedules are free.

Thibodeaux and Sanders will visit the Friedman Student Union and Iberville Cafeteria on those days to meet and listen to students about their concerns for the campus.

They also plan to include RSOs and Greek life in their campaign.

"We're really reaching out to Greek life. We've seen a decline in Greek interest, and we'd like to help all of the different leadership positions in Greek life to expand on their activities," Thibodeaux said. "We're also talking to RSOs to learn what they want to see done, and how we can help them next year."

Wingfield and Morrison are taking a similar route, targeting individual students, Greek life and RSOs.

Both candidates and their running mates have Facebook groups with discussion boards and encourage students to voice their concerns and opinions.

They will also participate in a debate Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the TV studio in Kyser Hall.

"Students are the heartbeat of the campus, and what we aim to do is to make sure that SGA has a finger on that pulse. Make sure that SGA knows what the students want," Wingfield said.

Tuition Assistance
cont. from p.1

"They will have a better understanding of what it is they'll be doing," Morris said.

Criminal justice majors can now earn up to $2,500 per year as reserve officers.

Senior criminal justice major Kevin Ashley said his classes have not yet received word of the program, but he thinks it's an interesting idea.

Ashley did point out, however, that he does not think $500 for 100 hours of work is an enticing offer.

Ashley said the reserve officers should instead be paid an amount closer to the pay of a full-time police officer.

"Cops don't get paid that much anyway," Ashley said.

Ashley said students who participate in the program should be able to collect regular paychecks instead of being paid in one installment.

"A hundred hours is a lot of work to put in," he said.

According to Lt. Fletcher, if a student completes 99 hours of work, he or she will not get the $500 payoff.

They will, however, learn a few valuable lessons.

Many young men and women enter the field based on the excitement of what they have seen in movies and TV shows, Fletcher said.

Fletcher, who was a reserve officer in the '80s, said those students are in for a surprise.

"It's not like it is on TV. I wish it was. I've been waiting for my Lamborghini to show up for quite some time," he said.

Paperwork and police reports make up a significant amount of the work officers deal with on a daily basis, Fletcher said.

"This is your number one weapon as a police officer," Fletcher said, holding up an ink pen.

Learning the significance of filing reports and writing tickets is another valuable benefit of the program, Fletcher said.

The experience with paperwork begins with the extensive application, which requires applicants to pass a psychological exam, a drug screening, a physical exam and a firearms training course.

The police department plans to conduct a background check on each applicant.

Prospective reserve officers must also submit a photograph and be prepared for interviews after they apply.

The students who earn positions as reserve officers will have the same arresting capabilities as a police officer, Fletcher said.

"The advantage of working in a small town like Natchitoches is the diversity of calls that we get," he said.

In larger cities, police departments are often separated into divisions.

Natchitoches reserve officers will take on a variety of different challenges, Fletcher said.

"It's a good place for people to find out what it's really like to be a police officer, but it's a good opportunity to give back to the community as well," Fletcher said.

Students interested in applying for the
Reserve Tuition Assistance Program
can contact Lieutenant Guy Fletcher
by e-mail at gfletcher@ci.natchitoches.la.us
or by phone at 318.357.3791.

Competed applications are to be turned in at the
Natchitoches Police Department at 400 Amulet Street.



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Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Kirsten Chambers describes her experience as a professional opera singer in New York City. For a video of her performance at NSU on Tuesday with pianist Keith Chambers, visit our Web site, www.thecurrentsauce.com.

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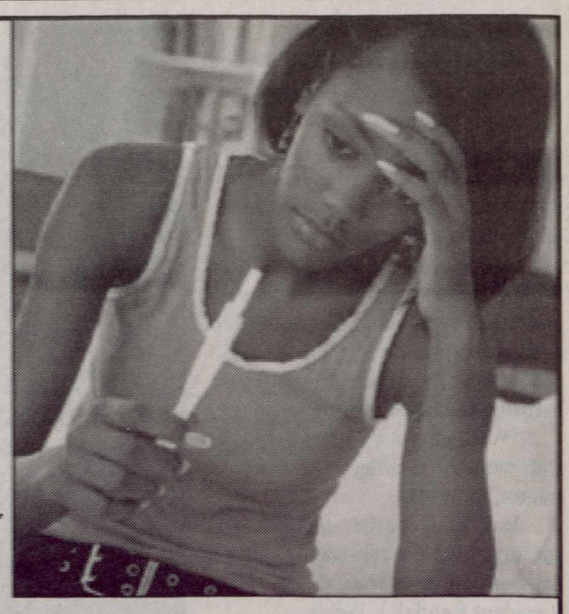
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Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
March 18, 2009

Local entrepreneur serves up 'Superdogs'



Photo by Kera Simon/The Current Sauce

Patrick Hollier, owner of Mighty Max Superdogs restaurant, has made a career out of selling innovative cuisine to college students and Natchitoches residents.

Kera Simon
Sauce Reporter

When Patrick Hollier asked his 3-year-old daughter what she wanted him to serve in his restaurant, she said "hot dogs and eggs."

A year later, Mighty Max SuperDogs restaurant definitely has the hot dogs and has narrowed in on a specialized niche market, but Hollier said he's still working on the eggs.

Located across from campus, right off of Second Street next to the train tracks, Mighty Max Superdogs serves a variety of hot dogs, wraps, salads, breakfast items and desserts.

They have permanent menu items, but he and his cooks are constantly experimenting to find what their customers like the most.

Hollier, an NSU alumnus, said he worked as a cook, server, or manager at practically every restaurant in Natchitoches while in college.

When he decided to open his own restaurant, he wanted his place to be one of a kind, digging into a market that few people knew existed. That's why he refuses to make hamburgers.

"Anything that I'm going to serve, if anyone else has it, I'm not gonna do it," Hollier said. "My thing is, I don't want to compete against anybody. I want to find my own little niche, and that's kind of what's made this whole thing work."

Hollier took the knowledge he gained as working in restaurants, as well as his graphic art degree, to create a lively, energetic, almost child-like experience for his customers of all ages.

He designed all of the logos and created the Mighty Max heroes and villains. His wife chose the color scheme and furnishings of the dining area. The bright blue walls wake up the senses while the TV blasts cartoons, setting the scene for a comic-book adventure that plays out on the menu.

"I wanted to do something that would appeal to kids and kind of bring out the kid in everybody," Hollier said. "I needed to have a superhero, and our dog Max fit the part."

Mighty Max Superdogs opened last summer and Hollier was able to work out all of the kinks in the menu before the fall semester started.

Now the restaurant serves NSU and LSMSA students, tourists, retirees, lunchtime office professionals and the three o'clock after-school crowd.

Hollier said he's still trying to fill in the gaps between his rushes, hoping to maintain constant business, but he has remained successful despite his lack of advertising.

"I've done some radio, but I'm mostly depending on word of mouth. Now that it's traveling so quickly, I don't really need to do any advertising," Hollier said. "People usually trust what their friends say over advertisements anyway."

Hollier runs his restaurant working as manager, cook, cashier and whatever else needs to be done, but his love for art is still thriving. He hosts one-night shows where he sells his stylized oil paintings in Natchitoches, and his next show will be after Easter in Alexandria. He was also just commissioned to do the cover art for the "Cane River Cookbook," published by the Natchitoches Service League.

He also plans to create a comic strip with his menu characters that he can put up in the restaurant and change every week at the drive-thru window, incorporating his love of art into his love of food.

"Everything falls into place. I mean, if you have talents and you want to be involved in those talents, not work a nine to five job for somebody else, you're going to eventually get into what you want to do. The hard part is taking that chance," Hollier said.

Mighty Max Superdogs

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Student Media

Several student media positions will be open next fall. Application forms and guidelines can be picked up in Room 108 of Kyser Hall.

Available positions are:

- **Editor in chief of the Argus literary magazine**
- **Editor in chief of The Current Sauce**
- **Editor in chief of the 2010 Potpourri yearbook**
- **General Manager for KNWD 91.7 FM The Demon**

Submit applications by April 1, 2009 at 1 p.m.

Fast Fact

Eating Disorders Among College Students

Among college students, eating disorders are more common than we would like to think. The three most common are:

Anorexia Nervosa - People who suffer from this disorder feel the need to become thin. Some of them think the quickest way to lose weight is to not eat at all. Food, calories, and body weight take control of the person's life.

Bulimia Nervosa - People who suffer from bulimia binge on large amounts of food in a quick, automatic, and helpless fashion. Then, they purge the food they have eaten by making themselves vomit, using laxatives, over-exercising, or limiting their diets. Some people use a combination of all these forms of purging.

Binge Eating Disorder - The person eats an amount of food larger than what others would eat in the same amount of time. They usually don't have much control over how much he or she is eating. Binge eating is different from anorexia and bulimia because people do not regularly vomit, over exercise, or abuse laxatives after they have eaten.

Source: doe.louisiana.gov/lde/nutritioned



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

At the SGA meeting Monday night, Student Body President Cody Bourque leads students in an open discussion concerning a regulation that could potentially allow students to carry concealed handguns on the NSU campus.



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Important Dates

Early registration for Fall 2009 semester: begins March 30

Early registration for Summer 2009 semester: March 30

Spring break: April 10 - 18

Final day of classes: Friday, May 1

Final exams: May 1 - May 8

Spring commencement: May 8

Information from the University Registrar

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
March 18, 2009



Courtesy Photo

The University Tutors provide services for students at the Academic Center. The tutors presented their skit, 'The Journey Toward Finals,' at University Place in Feburary.

University Tutors make difference

Center names 'academic support' as number one goal

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Tutors at the NSU Academic Center can help students with anything from studying for higher education to explaining general concepts.

The tutoring services at the Academic Center are free and are available to all NSU students that are currently enrolled for academic credits.

Tutors are available from the beginning of the semester through final exams.

Tutor Coordinator Meghan Breaux feels that being a tutor is inspiring.

"We get to associate with and help motivated students that come in for tutoring," Breaux said.

"We help change their academic career."

Currently, the Academic Center has 12 tutors.

All tutors in the Academic Center must have a 3.0 GPA and go through a certification process.

The tutors go through two semesters worth of training from the College Reading & Learning Association.

Catherine Faucheaux, the Academic Center director and Coordinator of Tutors, teaches Tutor 1010 and Tutor 1020 for certification.

The classes are also extended to other NSU tutoring centers.

Tutoring in the Academic Center dates back to 1998, when Dean Sue Weaver of the University College started up the program.

The University College was founded in 1997. In the beginning, the tutoring program was called the Learning Center and in 2004 it became known as the Academic Center.

Today, the Academic Center provides tutors that are specialized in about 100 different subjects focusing on core classes such as English, math and science.

To process and document contact with the students, the tutors use Tutor Trac, a computer software program that organizes appointments and keeps track of tutor and tutee interaction.

The academic center also helps direct students to other tutoring units available on campus.

"[We] network with other resources on campus to ensure that the academic needs of the students are being met," Faucheaux said. "Our goal is to strong academic support to the students from certified tutors qualified in their area of specialty."

Hours of Operation:

The Academic Center has three tutoring locations on campus:

- Room 239 of Kyser Hall, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and Friday8am – 5p.m.
- The WRAC, opening at 8:30 p.m .
- Watson Library, Saturday to Thursday 6 – 9:30 p.m.

'Aspiring politician' heads to Capitol Hill

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

NSU is sending one of its own to Capitol Hill.

William "Wil" Middleton Adams will be attending "Greeks on Capitol Hill" from April 18-22 in Washington, D.C.

There, he will receive training from a lobbying firm that will prepare him and other Greeks to interact with members of Congress.

"According to economist Thomas Sowell, he defines lobbying as simply 'an example of a group having better knowledge of its interests than the people at large do of theirs,'" Adams said in e-mail interview.

The objective is to get Congress to pass the College Infrastructure Act.

The act would allow fraternity and sorority foundations to make tax-deductible financial contributions for infrastructure improvements to meeting and dining areas in chapter houses.

The tax code currently allows colleges and universities to use tax-deductible contributions to improve university-owned student housing on campus.

This bill would make it substantially easier for fraternities and sororities nationwide to raise the money needed to install critical life-safety improvements in chapter housing, expand housing capacity, and otherwise modernize the housing provided for students, Adams said.

"It's an exciting privilege that I get to take part in this program and interact with the nation's lawmakers," Adams said.

Adams, a senior business administration major, is from Baton Rouge and has been a member of Pi Kappa Phi for four years. He is now the acting president of the Beta Omicron chapter.

Adams said he spends his free time with the many organizations that he is involved in.

He has been the College Republicans president for two years. He also served on the Homecoming Honor Court, the Republican Parish Executive Committee and the Louisiana Federation of College Republican.

Adams was Louisiana GOP Regional Caucus Director. He is also involved with the Pi Alpha Society, Business Professionals of America, Demon VIP, IM Sports and Freshman Connection.

While in Washington, D.C., Adams will also be attending the North American Interfraternity Conference Celebration and Meeting.

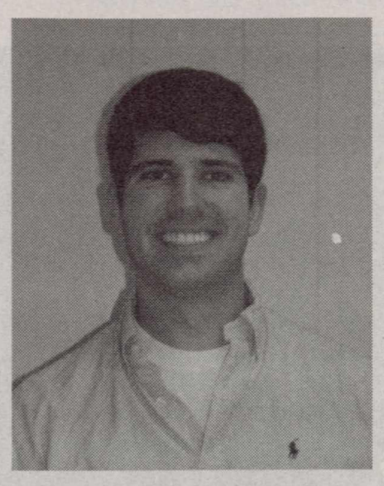
Adams mentioned his service includes being involved in his fraternity's philanthropy, Push America. In 2007 he rode in Gear Up Florida for Push America, a one-day event and 850 mile bike trek from Miami to Tallahassee, Flor.

He strongly supports Push America's goal – raising awareness and funds for people with developmental disabilities.

"Since my cousin has Down syndrome, this organization really hits home for me and has become an important part of my life," Adams said.

Adams loves sports and politics and has been heavily involved in intramural sports at NSU for four years, with a team called Team Stud.

"We've won the state co-ed football tournament the last two years in a row and we won state co-ed softball last year," Adams said.



William Adams

One of Adams' goals is to run for public office after graduating from law school.

"And since I am an aspiring politician, I watch Fox News daily and I always have my hands in someone's campaign trying to help out when I can. I find politics so interesting and so complex," Adams said in an e-mail interview.

In the interview, Adams expressed joy and admiration for being selected for the task in the nation's capitol.

"I feel honored; I really do," Adams said. "This is a great way for us to highlight many of the positive things that Greek organizations do to help their universities and communities. I know how vital the support of alumni members is to my own chapter house. It wouldn't be possible without their financial support. They shouldn't have to pay taxes on a donation to keep our house safe."

Students 'Celebrate Louisiana' through writing

Amanda Duncil
Sauce Reporter

The unique nature of Louisiana is a cause to celebrate, and high school students from around the state will have a chance to express their appreciation through a writing competition sponsored by the Louisiana Folklife Center.

The top three essay writers will receive cash prizes of $150, $100 and $50. Winners will be invited to attend the conference in the fall to present their essays, which will be published in the Louisiana Folklife Journal.

Students are asked to write about their life in Louisiana, and what they believe is the most important aspect of their heritage, while expressing how their state heritage gives them an identity.

Essays must be between 500 and 1,000 words, and be submitted to Shane Rasmussen, director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and assistant professor of English by June 1.

This competition gives students a great chance to earn academic achievements they can use for college, Rasmussen said.

"We will be looking for something that celebrates Louisiana," Rasmussen said.

Rasmussen hopes it causes students to reflect on their lives and how different elements of where they lived have influenced them.

"I think Louisiana has things to offer to its people that are very specific and unique," Rasmussen said.

The conference will be about the Red River and Cane River history and heritage.

It is co-sponsored by the Folklife Society of Louisiana, the NSU Writing Project and the NSU College of Liberal Arts and will be held on campus on Sept. 26 in conjunction with the first annual Conference on Louisiana Studies.

Undergraduate students can participate under the guidance of a trained scholar and can contact the Folklife Center for more information.

Students interested in entering the writing contest can e-mail Rasmussen at rasmussens@nsula.edu.

Distribution manager needed. This is a paid staff position. Must be an NSU student with a flexible class schedule on Wednesdays.
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Opinions Editor
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March 18, 2009

OPINIONS

Half the Battle: Smoke 'em if you got 'em

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



Light 'em up.

It's a discussion we have every so often, saved for a rainy day. Unfortunately, news of the impending economic apocalypse has been raining on us for months now, so let's talk about drugs.

Should they be legalized? Are we too strict or too lenient? Is that dude high or just tired?

We fear drugs more than anything. All our legislation is really based on fear, to be honest. Back in the not-too-distant past, we made all our anti-drug legislation based on the fact that drugs were seen as trademarks of certain races.

Marijuana was rumored to be distributed by Mexicans to unsuspecting American children. Other races were blamed for other drugs.

Nevermind the fact that it's Whitey who gave opium to the Chinese to control their economy and also established the drug supply from Latin America to the United States.

The CIA gave LSD to hundreds of people without their consent in an effort to gauge our ability to use it as a truth serum. And this was decades ago.

Political climates changed our policies on drugs, and now we focus on them as health and personal safety hazzards

Marijuana is a gateway drug? To what? Possibly the store for more Hostess snacks and Cocoa Puffs, but not to other drugs.

You just don't have the energy to do anything when smoking pot except ponder what else will make a good bong.

They say that it leads to increased crime rates, which is nonsense because even the slightest sliver of light seen through the window leads to hours hiding under the bed because the cops are, like, right outside, man.

Do you know what chronic pot use really leads to?

Scooby and Shaggy.

Because of our taboos, we make these drugs more appealing to people who just like the risk of doing something illegal. Instead of outright banning them, why not legalize them? A wise man once told me his idea for solving the drug problem in America. I have, to date, not heard any better ideas.

Repeal all drug laws and open government-run clinics nationally. These clinics will offer drugs to users for a nominal fee (one that is lower than street value).

Why am I advocating a plan that is likely going to make you question what I do in my spare time? Well, for starters, I laugh at the thought of having leisure time.

But, seriously, the plan can be tailored to be incredibly beneficial.

First of all, government-run clinics would mean clean drugs.

So, little Billy won't be tripping out on paint thinner and horse tranquilizers. Instead, he'll be getting a good, honest high that Jim Morrison would be proud of.

Of course, money is a little tight right now, and the government is really in need. So, the profits from the clinics would certainly be helpful.

But let's take a portion of the profits and spend it on drug education that will be presented to registered users (yes, they do have to register, but I'll get to that later) in mandatory classes once or twice a year.

These facilities will accommodate users throughout the duration of their high.

Doses will be monitored, as will the users (I really hate calling them this, because it reminds me of the movie "Tron") during the trip. Exits will be provided in the front and the rear of the cabin, and in the event of a sudden drop in pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the ceiling. Oxygen will be flowing…

OK. Maybe I've taken this a bit too far, but I think all televisions should be properly equipped with "The Wall", "Dazed and Confused" and anything featuring Will Ferrell.

Lastly, and most importantly, I mentioned that users would be registered.

The registry will be open to universities and businesses. Use would also appear on your driver's license. It is more of a deterrence, but it would be effective.

If you don't think this is a decent proposal, consider one more thing: In several states, the penalties for possession and distribution can be harsher than killing a man with a gun.

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It's five 'o' clock somewhere

Andrew Bordelon
Guest Columnist



After a long night at the bar, I wake up at the crack of noon and simultaneously crack open an ice-cold drink left over from the night before.

Then, almost as sure as the sun will begin its journey westward, a friend will see me and ask, "Are you already starting to drink?"

Usually I would answer with my well-tested theory that a drink or two during a hangover is the best cure to take the pain away.

However, lately I have wondered why this question seems to always come up on any given Saturday or Sunday morning.

Why is it that society seems to have made a set of regulated drinking hours?

I wonder why a drink at 10 a.m. labels one as an alcoholic, while a drink at 10 p.m. just means someone is having a good time.

There are, of course, socially acceptable excuses to get by those judgmental morning glances, such as: fishing, golf, tailgating or certain holidays involving excessive alcohol consumption like Mardi Gras or New Year's Eve.

I suppose you could consider a birthday as an acceptable holiday, but that usually serves merely as an excuse for partying during later hours of the night as opposed to some of us who chose to begin our inebriated adventure during earlier hours of the afternoon.

Instead of asking why one would begin drinking earlier in the day, we should ask why that question is part of our social standards.

I am often left wondering what sober president put these ideals in our heads.

My personal belief is that it might be a horrible remnant left behind from that dark and ominous period in our country's history referred to as Prohibition.

If that is so, then I think it should be forgotten, for even our president during that time, Herbert Hoover, would visit foreign embassies in Washington, D.C., to have a taste – and periodically an overindulgence – of that forbidden drink during that sad time in our great country.

As much as I admire our country over others, I sometimes wonder what we might be able to learn from some other countries' socially acceptable drinking standards.

As many opportunities as there are in America, I have yet to find a job like that of a bartender in England who is tipped not by cash but by drinks.

Perhaps we could learn from a country that has a designated time during the day, "tea time," for its bartenders to sober up to finish their shifts.

Bobby Jindal wants citizens to stay in Louisiana.

Pass a law that requires tea time, and I will be here as long as you like, Mr. Governor.

Otherwise, I do not see our society progressing much further in omitting socially acceptable drinking hours. If it is that unacceptable to drink early in the day without a socially acceptable excuse, then when will certain drinks be OK to drink?

A man cannot drink a screwdriver or mimosa at the bar at night.

It would be as if he had a scooter as a means of transportation or an overweight girlfriend; it is one of those things you can enjoy until your friends catch you with it.

Those screwdrivers and mimosas serve you well on those acceptable early indulgent times like Mardi Gras or that early morning golf game.

My greatest fear is that I will only be able to enjoy the humorous side of this argument while I remain in college. I have heard it said that we should enjoy it all while it lasts because after college it's called alcoholism.

I just hope that one day in the real world we early morning drinkers will not be judged by the condition of our livers but rather the principal of our argument that wherever we are it's five 'o' clock somewhere.

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www.thecurrentsauce.com

Internet rumor mill disappoints silver screen-watching skeptic

Richelle Stephens
Staff Columnist



I'm not much of a moviegoer, and when I go to the theaters I expect to see one that will change my life.

To capture my interest, I typically watch movie trailers first. If it doesn't interest me, then I won't see the movie.

When I was younger, however, I would get excited for a movie whenever tie-ins were released to eager consumers.

These included toys, school supplies (my personal favorite), clothing and bedsheets, among other things.

I remember seeing Simba and Nala plush dolls a few months before "The Lion King" was released in 1994, and I had my mother buy only "Lion King"-themed pencils, pens and notebooks so that I could make my "Aladdin"-laden classmates envious.

Of course, the idea of the tie-in doesn't apply to every film that's released in this country. You probably didn't carry around a "Pulp Fiction" lunchbox or color on a "Striptease" coloring book.

To compensate for this, movie studios release trailers and ship posters and cardboard standees to movie theaters to plaster all over their lobbies.

With the advent and subsequent popularity of the Internet, studios were afforded an untamed and limitless frontier to promote upcoming movies. More banner advertisements were devoted to them, and once MySpace claimed every living soul (and their pets) as members then its home pages were altered to resemble movie posters.

However, the Internet also allowed for Hollywood rumor mills to churn out junk to Middle America.

Nowadays it's not uncommon to hear of a movie planned for release three and four years later.

The downside to this, of course, is the unpredictability of the movie industry.

Executives may be on board for a movie at first but delayed production schedules, going over the set budget and even mergers and changes to the executive board could dramatically alter the chances of a movie being received in record opening weekends or relegated to a direct-to-video release (or even worse, not being released at all).

The case of a supposedly confirmed sequel to "Mrs. Doubtfire" is a notable one indeed.

When I saw that the Internet Movie Database posted a "Mrs. Doubtfire 2" on Robin Williams' filmography a few years ago, I was elated. However, IMDB was quick to remove it once Williams told a British journalist that he wasn't going to star in the movie.

Although people inundate message boards and gossip sites about which movies will be released when (or if ever, for that matter), sometimes rumors turn out to be true.

This was the case with initial rumors of a movie adaptation of the immensely popular anime "Dragonball Z."

Twentieth Century Fox now has a site devoted to "Dragonball: Evolution," complete with a trailer that makes me want to vomit, but I digress.

I've learned some painful lessons (such as the disappointment over the scrapping of the "Mrs. Doubtfire" sequel) when dealing with advance speculation on upcoming movies.

Therefore, I've become quite the skeptic.

To avoid having your heart broken when you learn that a certain movie won't be released, make note of the fact that, at that point, it's still a rumor and you should never listen to them.

Unless you see a promotional poster hanging on the wall of a theater or a Web site sponsored by a movie studio, don't believe what you hear until you do.

And if you don't ever see any of that, then it was never meant to be.

At least you'll have avoided the heartbreak.

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Next week in *Red vs. Blue*:

Red:
"The truth is that since this society has killed so many human beings, we may never have the people in this world that we are supposed to have."
-Ruth Wisher

Blue:
"While this may surprise some of my fellow Democrats, I am pro-life. While being pro-life, I do not feel that Roe v. Wade should be overturned."
-Heath Boddie

Concerned student believes in economic Darwinism

Jake Bray
Guest Columnist



The news of today is dominated by talk about numbers, and not just any numbers, but unfathomably large numbers.

It's no secret that the economy is the front and center issue of today.

With talk about balance sheets, budgets, and debts of numerical values in the trillions, how can anyone grasp what these numbers actually mean?

The executive and legislative branch has insisted that throwing trillions of dollars at the recent economic crises will be the saving grace this economy needs, but to most Americans, "trillion" is just a word, not a number.

It's difficult to comprehend what a trillion dollars even means.

This is in part because we as average Americans cannot visualize a trillion and do not have a concept of what a trillion dollars will even buy. Even the word "trillion" has lost its luster.

But what if instead of writing the words one trillion dollars I wrote $1,000,000,000,000.00?

Or what about $1.00x 10^{12} or $10x10x10x10x10x10x10x10x10x10x10.00? Do these forms make a trillion look more menacing?

With the recent "suring up" of Citibank, the bailout has reached a staggering cost of 4.61 trillion dollars.

If you were to take those dollars and tile a floor, it would cover an area of 18,426 square miles.

That's an area as big as New Hampshire and Vermont combined.

To relate 4.61 trillion to historical American expenditures, this bailout is costing more than the Marshall Plan, Louisiana Purchase, Race to the Moon, S & L Crisis, Korean War, The New Deal, Invasion of Iraq, Vietnam Was, World War I and the entire cost of NASA combined, even after the adjustment for inflation.

With this bailout having such a large price tag, it makes you wonder what we are really buying.

It can't be stock market stability, because since Bush's $700 billion bailout the Dow has fallen 3398 points.

It can't be security for our children who are going to inherit an unfathomable amount of debt.

It's time to make Washington stop throwing good money after bad.

It's time to put a stop to this wasteful spending and simply let nature take its course.

Let the weak banks fail and the strong survive.

Let Darwinism thrive.

No one corporation is bigger than America and it's time to make Washington realize this fact.

I believe a so-called "call to arms" is in order.

E-mail, write and call your local senators and representatives.

They'll call other senators and tell them that this wasteful spending will not be acceptable.

It's time to make Washington realize that corporate America is not bigger than America itself.

Fletcher Jonson
Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editors
March 18, 2009

Demons axe Lumberjacks in short conference series

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Northwestern State's baseball team had a few unexpected days off when weather altered four games last week.

The scheduled meeting with Texas A&M University has been pushed back to March 25, and all three games against conference rival Stephen F. Austin University were rescheduled due to rain.

The games on Friday and Saturday were delayed, and then cancelled because of the unfortunate weather. The teams faced off in a doubleheader on Sunday for a short weekend conference series.

NSU came into the series 2-1 in conference play, coming off a series win at McNeese State University. SFA came in 0-3 after being swept by the University of Central Arkansas.

The Demons got a strong showing from pitcher Jimmy Heard in game one as NSU took game one from the Lumberjacks. Heard threw 6 2/3 innings and improved to 3-0 on the year. He allowed seven hits in the Demons' 5-3 win, with all three of SFA's runs being earned. The senior struck out three and walked only one batter.

"Jimmy went out there and gave us a decent start," head coach J.P. Davis said. "We did enough offensively and our bullpen was really good."

Freshman pitcher DD Lott relieved Heard to complete the seventh inning. Davis brought in junior Trevor Geist, who pitched a scoreless eighth inning before freshman Chad Sheppard came in to finish the game for the Demons.

Sheppard struck out two in the ninth to put away the Lumberjacks and earn his second save of the season.

NSU jumped on the board in the bottom of the second after junior second baseman Chase Lyles smashed a lead-off double. He advanced to third after a wild pitch from Lumberjack pitcher Erik Gregersen.

Junior outfielder Tyler Baisley then grounded out to first base, scoring Lyles and picking up the RBI.

SFA took a 2-1 lead in the fourth, scoring both runs with two outs. Bo Coffman singled up the middle, scoring Sean Meyers.

Coffman then stole second and scored on an Adam Bosley single to right field. The Lumberjacks added another in the sixth after Tanner Hines smoked a lead-off double and scored when Sean Meyers single to left field.

The Demons however, answered with three runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning.

NSU's first three batters got on base, and senior infielder Joe Urtuzuastegui got an RBI after being hit by a pitch. Junior infielder Dan Meyer then singled to left, scoring Chase Lyles to tie the game at three. NSU jumped ahead 4-3 when pinch hitter Beau Snodgrass walked to score Baisley.

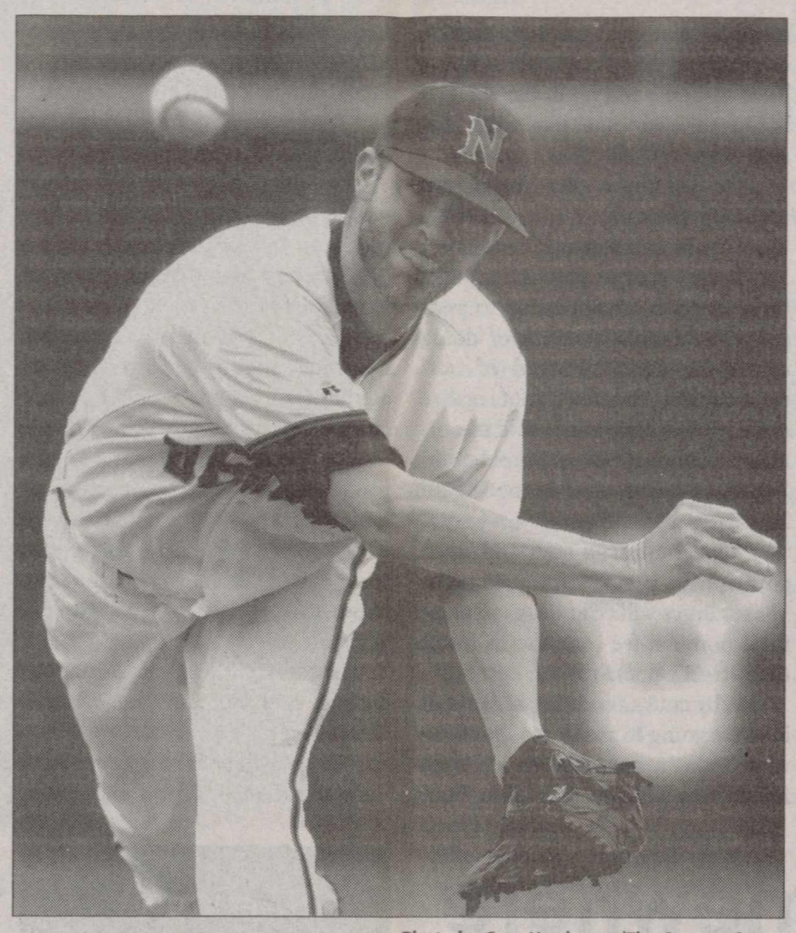


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Jimmy Heard (1) earned the win in the first game of Sunday's doubleheader to improve to 3-0.

The Demons added an insurance run to go up 5-3 in the bottom of the eighth when Urtuzuastegui scored on a passed ball from Richard Folmer.

Stephen F. Austin took an early 2-0 lead in game two in the top of the third, but the Demons answered with four runs of their own in the bottom half of the same inning. The Demons found themselves trailing again when SFA put up two more runs in the next inning.

"It was frustrating in the second game," Davis said. "Defensively we broke down a little bit, but we did come back. We're down 2-0 but scratched back with a four-spot, but it's frustrating because then we give the lead right back up."

The Lumberjacks surrendered that lead in the bottom of the fifth when sophomore catcher Miles Parsons singled to score Urtuzuastegui and Baisley to up the Demons up 6-4.

The 'Jacks scored one run on a Jarid Scarafiotti solo shot in the sixth, but the Demons extended its lead to 9-6 after eight innings.

Chad Sheppard was called on once again in game two, after earning the save in the first game. Sheppard came in with a three-run cushion, but gave up two runs, which are the only runs he has given up the entire season.

A sacrifice fly by Brian Ferguson allowed Tanner Hines to score to cut the lead to 9-7.

Sean Meyers then blasted a two-out solo home run to inch within one run of the Demons, but Sheppard retired the next batter to earn his second save of the day and the Demons improved to 10-5 overall and 4-1 in conference play. SFA falls to 3-12 (0-5) and is one of two teams [Texas A&M-Corpus Christi] to be winless in conference.

NSU traveled to Baton Rouge to face the nation's fifth-ranked LSU Tigers in a non-conference match.

In a defensive battle, LSU scored in the bottom of the ninth to down the Demons 2-1.

The Tigers scored an early run in the bottom of the first. Outfielder Jared Mitchell singled to lead off the inning for LSU and stole second and third to move into scoring position.

Junior outfielder Blake Dean flied out to right field, sacrificing Mitchell in for the first run of the game. The Demons answered the Tigers' run in the top of the second inning.

Snodgrass started off the inning with a single, followed by a Dominic Gamboa single. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch, moving both into scoring position with only one out. Miles Parsons then flied out to right field to score Snodgrass. Trent Grondin then grounded out to end the inning.

Ryan Zimmerman started for the Demons, throwing five innings, giving up four hits and one run. DD Lott got the loss for the Demons after pitching three innings, allowing one hit, one run, and striking out five batters.

NSU continues conference play Friday at UT-Arlington at 6:30 p.m.

Lady Demons roar past Lions, fall short in semifinals



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Anna Cate Williams (24) attacks the basket in the Lady Demons' first-round win against Southeastern.

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Despite shooting only 36 percent from the field, Northwestern State defeated a familiar Southeastern Louisiana team 51-45 in its first game in the Southland Conference Tournament last week.

The two teams squared off for the third time this year. NSU and SLU split their season series, with the home team winning both games. The sixth seeded Lady Demons held the third seeded Lady Lions to a 33 percent shooting percentage.

The Southland Conference's Freshman of the Year Demetria White and junior guard Anna Cate Williams led all scorers with 11 each. The Lady Lions had no players score in double figures, as three players scored nine.

Both teams struggled from the three-point line and free throw line. The Lady Lions attempted 20 3-pointers, and connected on only two of them. NSU sank only four of 12 three-point attempts. The charity stripe had been a strength for the Lady Demons throughout the season, but hit only 52 percent from the line. SLU wasn't much better, hitting 11 of 17, 64.7 percent.

Junior center Courtney Shead had a team-high eight rebounds. Southeastern's Zevy Ivory recorded a game-high nine rebounds.

With the first round win, the Lady Demons advanced to face the University of Texas at San Antonio, the No. 2 seed. In the regular season, the teams met in San Antonio with the Lady Roadrunners winning by five at home. The Lady Roadrunners were too much for NSU as they knocked the Lady Demons out of the tournament, 58-47.

UTSA jumped to a 23-4 lead within the first nine minutes of the game, but the Lady Demons fought their way back to cut the lead to three late in the second half. UTSA led by seven at the half, but NSU opened the second half on a 10-2 run to take a one-point lead.

UTSA, led by the Southland Conference Player of the Year Monica Gibbs, then put together a run of their own, opening their lead back up to 16 with three minutes left. The Lady Demons were able to cut it to 11, but that was as close as they would get.

"The first four or five minutes of each half really tell the story," head coach Jennifer Graf said. "In the second half, we came out about as good as we could, and then hit a drought and couldn't knock down any baskets. I guess that has plagued us all year where we would go five or six minutes when we couldn't score."

NSU held Gibbs to only eight points on the day, but Onika Anderson scored 29 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, both game-highs. Ryba Pawlaczyk also recorded a double double, netting 15 points and 12 boards.

"We couldn't have asked more from Brooke [Shepherd] and Anna Cate Williams who had the job of having to defend Monica [Gibbs]," Graf said. "She is an outstanding player and her post players obviously stepped up for her. Courtney Shead recorded a double double of her own, hitting seven of 11 field goals for 14 points and collecting 11 rebounds.

UTSA defeated UT-Arlington in the finals to earn an automatic NCAA Tournament berth.

Upcoming NSU Events

3/20-21	Track	Dogwood Relays	All day
3/20	Baseball	@UTA	6:30 p.m.
3/21	Softball	@UTA (DH)	2:00 p.m.
3/21	Baseball	@UTA	2:00 p.m.
3/22	Softball	@UTA	1:00 p.m.
3.22	Baseball	@UTA	1:00p.m.

Lady Demons endure tough times

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Baylor University Lady Bears outscored Northwestern State 20-1, sweeping Thursday's doubleheader. Baylor put game one away early, scoring all 11 of its runs in the first three innings.

Bree Hanafin hammered a two-run homer in the top of the first inning, giving Baylor an early lead. The Lady Bears scored seven runs in the top of the second inning, stretching the lead to 9-0 before Alex Colyer blasted a two-run shot in the top of third inning for the Lady Bears, bringing the score to 11-0.

Catcher Leslie Johnson snapped Whitney Canion's no-hitter in the bottom of the fifth inning with a single to left field. Cassie Poncik walked, moving Johnson to second before Ainsley Pellerin singled to load the bases. The Lady Demons were unable to capitalize, as the next three batters went down consecutively.

Starting pitcher Sara Dornelas got the loss for the Lady Demons, allowing seven hits and nine runs, six of which were earned. The Lady Demon defense committed four errors in game one's loss.

"I don't think our kids were prepared to play, which is nobody's fault but our own," first year head coach Donald Pickett said. "We have to be better than that. When things don't go exactly as planned, we have to get things together and not break. We can bend, but not break."

Hanafin hit her second homer in game two to lead the Lady Bears to a 9-1 win. Baylor scored in four of the five innings played, pounding out 13 hits. The Lady Demons scored its only run of the day in the bottom of the fourth when Stormi Stech scored on a fielder's choice hit by Samantha Roberts, who got the RBI.

Junior third baseman Amanda Jameson finished 1-1 with the lone hit for the Lady Demons.

Kelee Grimes got the loss for the Lady Demons, while Shaina Brock earned the win for Baylor.

Baylor improves to 20-10 on the season, while NSU drops to 3-20 entering the weekend conference series against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

"Hopefully we can turn it around and win the series this weekend," Pickett said. "If we bring our A-game and the right team shows up, I really believe we will win the series this weekend."

The conference series was pushed back to a doubleheader Sunday due to rain. The Lady Demons' offense came out firing, putting up four runs in the first two innings. TAMU-CC, however, scored six in those two innings.

The Lady Islanders scored one in each of the fourth and seventh innings, taking game one at the Demon Diamond 8-4.

Grimes got the loss for NSU, while Addie Tallman pitched a complete game and collected her sixth win of the year.

Juniors Randi Stuard and Stormi Stech each knocked in a run for NSU, while freshman infielder Tiffany Ward batted in the other two runs.

NSU's bats lost their luster as they were unable to pound out a hit in game two. Tallman, who earned the win in game one, threw a complete game no-hitter.

She was only two walks shy of a rare perfect game. Ainsley Pellerin reached base twice for NSU, as she walked both times to get on base.

NSU falls to 3-22 (1-10), while TAMU-CC notches its first conference wins of the year. They sit at 10-18 (2-10).

The next action for the Lady Demons is Saturday, as they battle the University of Texas at Arlington.

The two teams start the series with a doubleheader starting at 2 p.m., and conclude the series Sunday at 4 p.m.

Track team wrangles up five 1st-place finishes at Cowboy Relays

Devon Drake
Web Editor

The Demon track team competed in Lake Charles this weekend at the annual Cowboy Relays, held on the campus of McNeese State University.

The women's team ended the day with several awards, including three first-place wins.

In the hammer throw, Dejon Griffin placed first with a 171-09 mark. Leslie Jordan also placed first in the shot put event, with a 41-11 1/2 mark.

The women's final first place event came in the 4x400 meter relay, where the team of Samantha Flowers, Phyllis Iheanacho, Carmen Wallace and Andrea Warren posted a time of 4:05.41.

Other noteworthy performances from the NSU women included Warren's second place performance in the 400-meter dash and Wallace's 1:07.83, second place time in the 400-meter hurdles. Anna Forest also placed second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.79 and Jordan's second place performance in the discus throw, posting a mark of 116-09.

The men's track team also won accolades this weekend, with a pair of first-place finishes.

In the 4x400 meter relay, Michael Batts, Chris Green, Jeremy Thomas and Chris Pearson placed first with a time of 3:18.10.

NSU's other top finish came in the 110-meter hurdles, where Michael Hill finished with a time of 14.83 seconds.

Other notable performances from the NSU men include: Chris Oyeku's second place long jump, with a mark of 21-2 3/4, Oyeku and Chris Greer's second and fourth place finishes in the triple jump, with marks of 44-3 1/2 and 42-9 3/4, respectively.

Also, the men captured the second, third and fourth place spots in the discus throw, with a 155-11 mark by Daniel Yarbrough for second, a 145-02 mark by Buck Thompson for third and a 145-02 mark by Corey Jones for fourth. Yarbrough also captured third place for his 166-10 hammer throw performance.

The track and field team's next competition will be the Dogwood Relays Friday and Saturday in Nacogdoches, Texas.

The CurrentSauce

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 25

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Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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SGA raises bar for Mr. and Miss NSU

New GPA requirement conjures controversy among students

David Royal
News Editor

There was an uncommon sight at in the Student Government Association's weekly meeting on Monday – the seats in the back of the room were actually filled with NSU students.

Students came primarily to listen and contribute to the discussion amongst the senators concerning Bill SP 09-016.

The bill, which was approved by the senate, raised the minimum requirement for those to be nominated for Mr. or Miss NSU from a 2.5 to a 2.75 GPA.

A similar bill was written in spring 2006. However, it was not approved by the senate.

During the discussion of the bill, the senators and students raised several points both in favor and opposition of increasing the requirement.

SGA Vice President Mark Daniels, who was fulfilling the duties of speaker of the senate in Tim Gattie's absence, had to call the senate meeting to order on more than one occasion due to the debate getting out of hand and the senators not following Robert's Rules of Order.

The primary argument of academic affairs committee members who were in support of the bill was that Mr. and Miss NSU are some of the highest honors received on campus, and the GPA requirement should be raised to ensure that the best candidates are given the positions.

External Affairs Commissioner Joe Hamilton said that the position should not be rewarded to the average person.

"The world is full of average people, and receiving an honor should be for those who are above average," Hamilton said.

One student present at the meeting was current Mr. NSU Roderick Wilson, who said the SGA had his full support behind the bill.

Wilson said that the NSU student body, and his generation as a whole, does not work for what they want, and raising the requirement for the positions is needed.

"We do 'C'-credit work and get 'A' credit for it, and that's not how it should be," Wilson said.

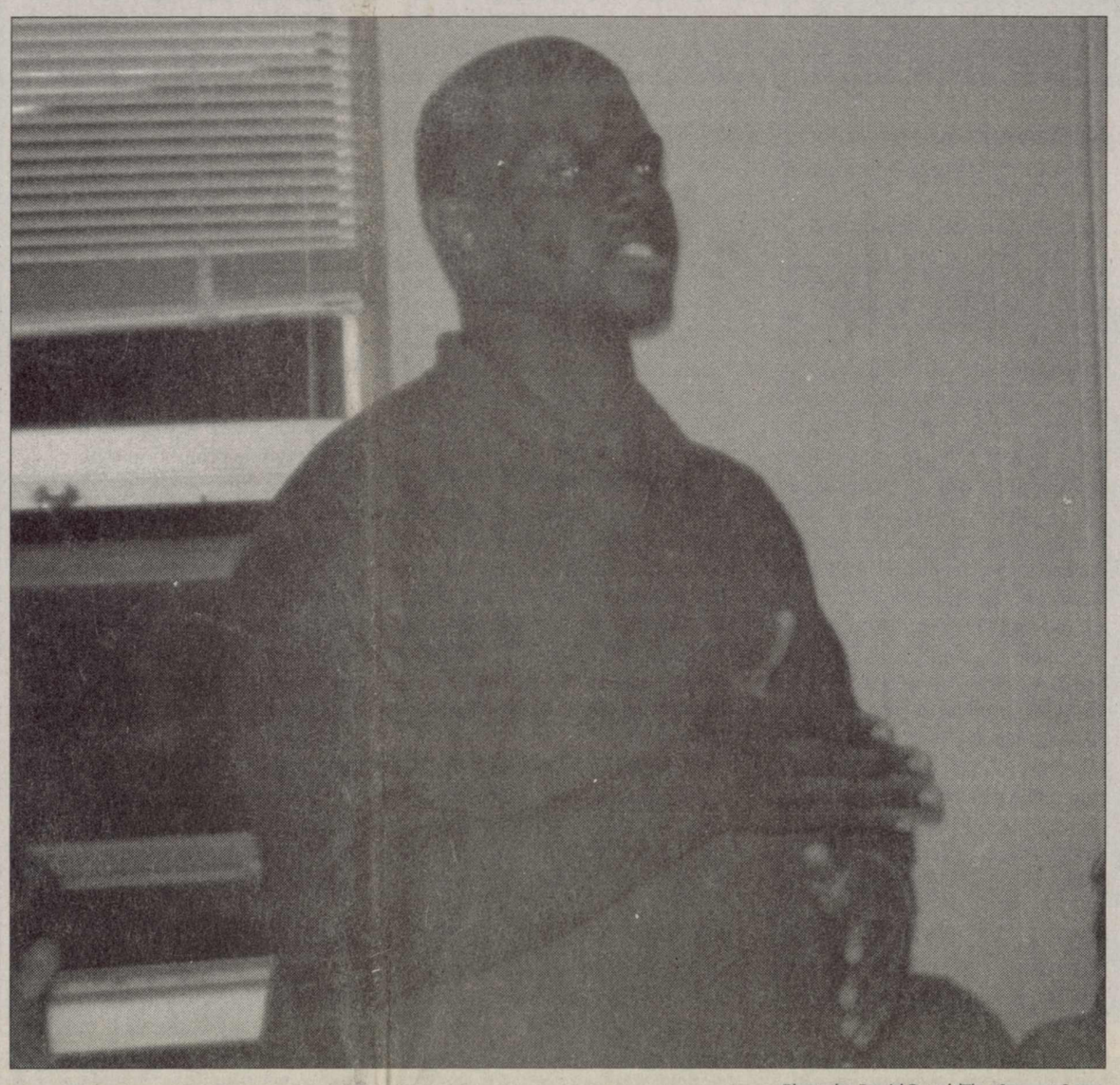


Photo by David Royal /The Current Sauce

Hasim Jones, a senior psychology major, was one of many students who attended Monday's SGA meeting and spoke out against Bill SP 09-016.

Arguments against the bill, however, included that not enough student opinions were gathered – about 70 students were surveyed – and other prestigious positions on campus, such as SGA president, had just as low GPA requirements.

SGA Senator Shanice Major said she was in favor of the idea of raising the GPA requirement for Mr. and Miss NSU, but not until the requirements of the SGA executive board is changed.

Several students, like Hasim Jones, also stood up to voice their opinions against the bill.

Hasim, a senior psychology major, agreed that more requirements should be placed on SGA officials.

He said that more incentives should go toward Mr. and Miss NSU.

Another student, Dewaskie Fuller, said he did not support the bill, but for a different reason.

Fuller said that he, like many students at NSU, had one bad semester. In his case, it was due to a death in his family. As a result, Fuller's GPA took a significant hit, and he does not think it is fair for him or other students to be "punished" for suffering one semester.

In the academic affairs committee meeting, SGA Senator Adris Moffett questioned whether the bill was being written to prohibit some people from being nominated for Mr. and Miss NSU, said Academics Affairs Commissioner Jason Thibodeaux.

During the meeting, Moffett again asked what the motives of her fellow academic affairs committee members are with wanting to pass the bill.

"I'm for the bill, but not the principle behind it," Moffett said after Monday night's meeting.

In response to what some people now consider an issue of race, many students voiced their opinions.

Eddie Higginbotham, a junior health and exercise science major, said he understood why some might see race being an issue with this bill, but ultimately it needed to be overlooked.

"I think it is very easy to pick at [this bill] and make it a racial thing, but in the end, the fact is that a student should place academics on top of being a good leader," Higginbotham said.

Kappa Sigma President Nick Courville said that if race had something to do with the bill, then statistically, white males would be affected the most.

Courville said many of the predominantly black fraternities have higher cumulative GPAs than the predominantly white fraternities.

Discussion on the bill to increase the GPA requirement lasted for about an hour and ended after the senate voted to immediately cease it.

The vote was conducted through roll call. Nine senators voted in favor of the bill, six voted in opposition and five abstained.

Immediately following the vote, Moffett and two other senators who voted in opposition of the bill walked out in the middle of the meeting.

In a brief interview, Moffett explained her reason for leaving was that she needed to study.

SGA President Cody Bourque said he was not pleased with the abrupt exiting of the senators.

"I've never been as frustrated at an SGA meeting as I was at last night's [meeting]" Bourque said yesterday.

He explained that following the Mr. and Miss NSU bill, the senate voted on possibly one of the most important pieces of legislature of the semester, and the three senators should have been there.

The senate voted to recommend an additional $7.50 student fee for NSU students, and Bourque said it was "completely irresponsible" for them to not represent the students at the meeting.

Aside from those who walked out, Bourque said he was pleased with the professionalism of the rest of his senators.

"When race entered the picture for this bill, the argument was essentially killed," Bourque said. "We overcame it, however, and that is something to hold our heads up high about."

Local liquor stores vie for college students' attention

David Royal
News Editor

Natchitoches' local drive-through liquor stores received additional competition in February after the Frosty Factory opened its doors – and window –for business.

Originally expected to open in November, the Frosty Factory's owner Dwane Arnold explained that the opening date had to be pushed back due to a later start date with the contractor.

Since its official opening on Feb. 17, Arnold said business has been good.

He added, however, that business could be better, and he hopes that one day the business will match that of his Alexandria Frosty Factory venue, which has been around for more than 25 years.

Arnold said, thus far, the bulk of his business has not come from college students like he had expected.

He credited this to the simple fact that NSU students do not yet know that the Frosty Factory is open.

In order to alleviate this problem, Arnold said he plans to work with an NSU marketing student to get his store's name out to students.

"It will take a while for students to come along, but it will happen," Arnold said.

Mason Kyle, a junior health education major, agreed that this is the Frosty Factory's biggest problem.

"They have not had a lot of big publicity," Kyle said.

Another reason Arnold thinks students will begin to prefer the Frosty Factory over other drive-through liquor stores is the wide variety of drink combinations his store provides.

Sophomore music education major Stephanie Ojeda said she has been to the Frosty Factory once.

Ojeda reflected Arnold's sentiment by saying that she was pleased with the store's wide selection of products.

She added that she still prefers Maggio's Package Liquor but is definitely willing to give the Frosty Factory another try in the future.

Since the opening of the Frosty Factory, however, some of the existing drive-through liquor stores have seen little change in their sales.

The general manager of Maggio's Package Liquor, Bryan Edens, said his business has remained "steady" despite the new store.

Edens said this is because the "drinks are better and the prices are better" in his opinion.

Two employees at the Filling Station shared similar opinions.

Filling Station employees and NSU students April Fontenot and Ashley Shelfo agreed that business has not really been affected by the Frosty Factory's opening.

Fontenot said one advantage the Filling Station has is that its actual drive-through is a better environment.

"There is music playing, and it is just a more friendly, inviting experience for the customers," Fontenot said.

Shelfo added that another reason NSU students continue to shop at the Filling Station is that many of the store's employees are in fraternities and sororities. As a result, their friends come and show their support and provide a great deal of business.

Frosty Factor owner Dwayne Arnold said he understands this.

"I respect the loyalty that the students have for the other stores, but I think that [the students] will eventually understand what we have to offer," Arnold said.

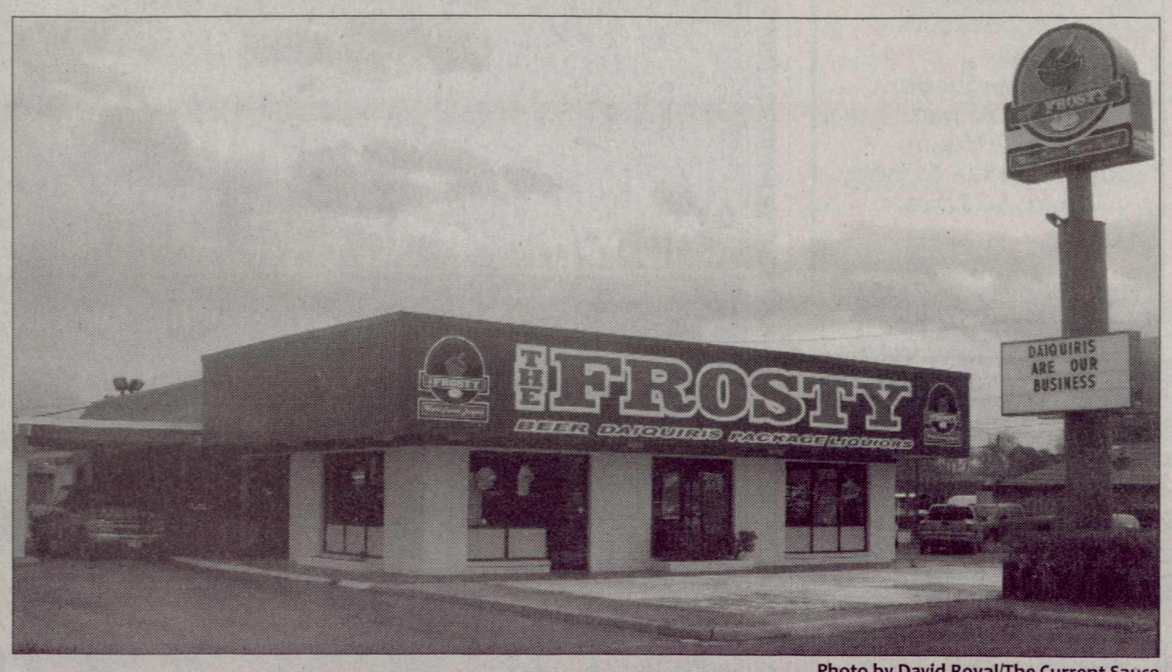


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

The Frosty Factory, which opened in February, is one of three drive-through liquor stores in Natchitoches that provide alcoholic beverages for students on the go.

David Royal
News Editor
droyal001@student.nsula.edu
March 25, 2009

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1 p.m., 3:45 p.m.,
7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.
Friday, Monday - Thursday
7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.

"Knowing"
Rated PG-13
Saturday - Sunday
1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.,
6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

'The Last House on the Left"
Rated R
Saturday – Sunday
9:30 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
9:30 p.m.

"Race to Witch Mountain"
Rated PG
Saturday - Sunday
12:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.,
6:45 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
6:45 p.m.

"Monsters vs. Aliens"
Rated PG
Saturday – Sunday
1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.,
7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.

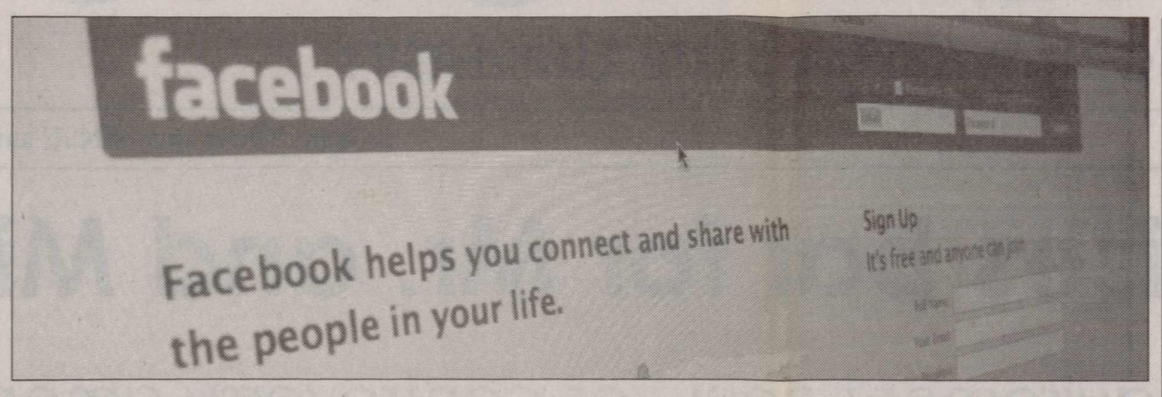
"The Haunting in Connecticut"
PG-13
Saturday – Sunday
12:45, 3:45 p.m.
7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.
Friday, Monday – Thursday
7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.

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Come to our meetings Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

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SAB hits wall with Facebook

Campaign rules may cause confusion

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

With Student Activities Board elections around the corner, some prospective representatives-at-large may face a conundrum concerning electronic promotion on the social networking Web site Facebook.

Marquis Montgomery, a senior Computer Information Systems major, is one of 30 NSU students running for a SAB rep-at-large position.

"I started an event on Facebook just to campaign and kind of get my name out there," he said. "That way, if somebody wanted to find out about my platform, they could just send me a message."

Last week, candidates applied for positions and received a set of campaign guidelines.

One rule states that candidates who relied strictly on fliers and face-to-face campaigning must take down all signs that are within 50 feet of the polls on the day before the election.

Failure to do so may result in disqualification and removal from the race.

But because there is currently no rule concerning the use of social media in the campaign, some students may encounter confusion when election day comes.

Montgomery said he does not think the SAB executive board will require students to delete their Facebook events or groups on the day before the election.

"I don't think it applies to Facebook; I think it has to do more with the campaigning that's done on campus," Montgomery said.

Many students, though, access Facebook in on-campus computer labs. Some students use their cellular phones to check Facebook while in the Student Union.

If the SAB decides to hold candidates responsible for electronic media's impact on voters on the day before the election, many of them may be disqualified from the race.

Sophomore general studies major Zachary Anderson has relied on word-of-mouth so far, but he said he will probably make a Facebook group soon.

"I think it's really smart," he said. "A lot of people, when we give them a flier, they just toss it. But most college students are on Facebook more than they are on their Blackboard."

Freshman hospitality, management and tourism major Tiffany Hudson said her Facebook event, "Elect Tiffany as SAB Rep-At-Large," has spread further than she anticipated. Hudson invited many of her friends and encouraged them to invite their friends to the group as well.

"Half the people in the group, I don't even know who they are," Hudson said.

With more than 175 million people visiting the site on a regular basis, it comes as no surprise. The average user has 120 friends on the site, according to Facebook.com.

Courtney Espenan, a sophomore liberal arts major running for a rep-at-large position, also created a Facebook group and agrees that it is a worthwhile promotion tool.

"It's a good way to go," Espenan said. "With all the problems with money right now, this is free."

Espenan, who currently serves as the executive social director of Phi Mu sorority, is accustomed to planning events on a budget and promoting them using different media.

Facebook is a way for her to keep costs low and reach as many students as possible.

"You can invite your friends, and they can invite their friends, and even if they don't join, they've heard about it," Espenan said.

Espenan and other candidates encouraged students to vote April 1.

Junior social work major Monique Chachere, who is also running for rep-at-large, pointed out that each vote makes a difference.

"Even if only five people go out and vote, there are about 30 people running for 14 available positions," Chachere said.

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208 WRAC

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sunday – Thursday
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Presidential candidates prepare for televised on-campus debate

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief

The first Student Government Association presidential election since 2004 brings with it a televised debate between Jason Thibodeaux and Kayla Wingfield, the two candidates running in next week's election.

Cody Bourque, current SGA president, will moderate and ask questions that he has previously shown to the two candidates.

Thibodeaux and Wingfield will have two minutes to respond when they are asked questions and one minute each for rebuttal

There will also be a portion of the debate for student questions, and students can attend the filming, which will take place tonight at 7:30 in the Ora G. Williams TV Studio.

"I think there's going to be a big student turnout," Bourque said.

Bourque said the questions will cover three main issues – safety, academics and residential life – because the candidates' platforms had these issues in common.

Other questions in the debate will refer to student technology, priorities in leadership and higher education issues in Louisiana.

Bourque said the debate is important because it will provide information to NSU students so that they can make an educated decision come election day, April 1.

Thibodeaux agreed with Bourque, saying the debate was an opportunity to get students "riled up" on issues students weren't passionate about before.

He said he thinks the debate will let students know that SGA is here to help and that together, students and the SGA can make a difference on campus.

Wingfield has similar ideas to convey through Wednesday's debate.

"My message is that I want students to know they have a voice in the SGA," Wingfield said, adding that she would be that voice for them.

She also said that she wants to use the debate to make sure that students know their needs would be met.

NSU 22 will begin airing the debate Thursday morning.

Full-time NSU students can vote for either Thibodeaux and his running mate Chris Sanders or Wingfield and her running mate Mathew Morrison for SGA president and vice president on April 1 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Friedman Student Union lobby.

Also on the ballot will be candidates for Student Activities Board representatives-at-large and proposed changes to the SGA bylaws.

About 18 students will be appointed by acclamation to fill the maximum 20 seats on the senate, and senior liberal arts major Shanice Major will be appointed as SGA treasurer.

Major said she wants to focus on revamping next year's budget for the SGA, which is something she said Lauren Michel, SGA's current treasurer, started this year.

Major said she would also like to look through the budget and find new ways to allocate funds that might better serve the students.

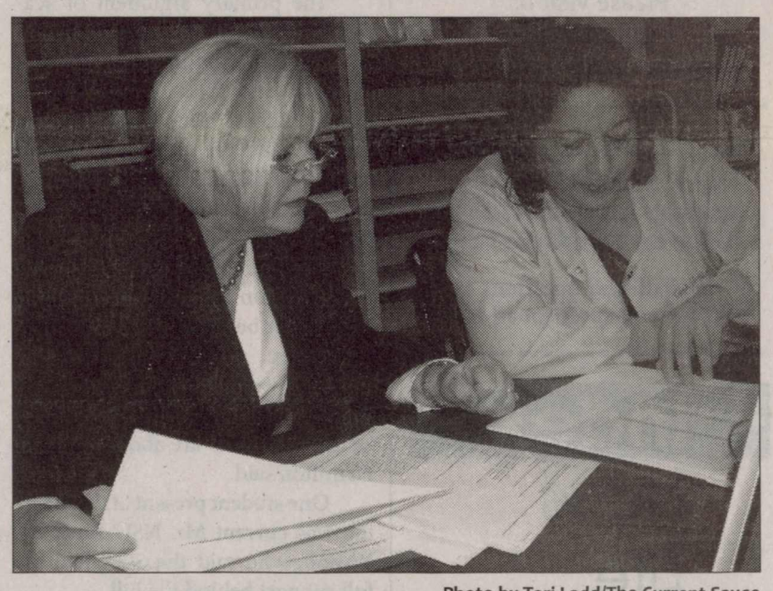


Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

The Creole Heritage Center has sifted through historic French documents to compile an index.

Creole Heritage Center organizes French documents in new index

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Natchitoches, the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, comes with a lot of traditions, tales and myths, and it has history both buried and undiscovered.

The Creole Heritage Center has gathered French documents that include information from French Colonial history, marriage and consent-to-marriage contracts, the sale and exchange of land, slave trade, Renunciation (rejection or abandonment); Manumissions (emancipation of slaves), partnerships, information on the first inventories and succession records in this area, and information that traces back to historical families in the area.

The information has been compiled into an organized index in the Louisiana Natchitoches Parish Courthouse.

"All of this information was hidden," Executive Director of the NSU Creole Heritage Center Janet Colson said. "We computerized it and put it online for the public."

It took the center a year and a half to create the index. The Creole Heritage Center created the index as a guide to translate and locate the documents. All of the documents the center is targeting are from 1732-1819.

"Some of the documents are 300 years old," Colson said. "By doing this, it provided a more compressive database."

A grant from the Cane River National Heritage Area made the project possible along with help from Dana Lee, former director of the Folk Life Center; Pete Gregory, a professor of Anthropology at NSU; Mary Wernet of archives at the Eugene P. Watson Library; Clerk of Courts Louie Bernard; Deputy Clerk of Court Linda Cockrall; and the Creole Heritage staff, according to the NSU News Bureau.

Whitney Fooks, the current graduate assistant for the Creole Heritage Center, continues to log information to the index.

Although this project is nearing completion, the scholars at the Creole Heritage Center still have many goals they want to achieve. The next step for the center is to try to get more funding for the next part of the project, which is translating the documents from French to English.

" [I] really would like to use qualified and certified students to help with the translations," Colson said.

Next, the Creole Heritage Center plans to process documents to preserve the Creole language.

The center is also trying to make a CD with various resources that would assist grade school students in learning Louisiana history.

The Creole Heritage Center also has an annual Creole Day planned for the second week in October and has sponsored many conferences in Louisiana and in the United States.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
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March 25, 2009

Graduate student takes prize

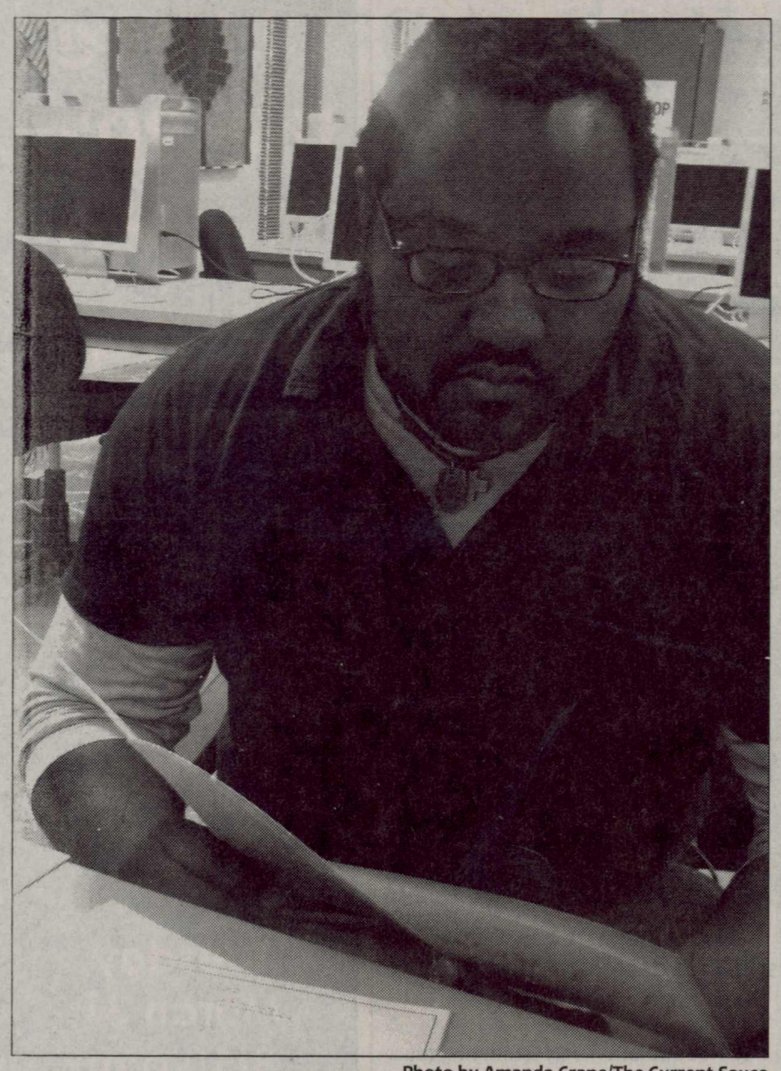


Photo by Amanda Crane/The Current Sauce

Graduate student Larrie King reads over his ADDY-winning design project in the A.A. Fredericks building.

Amanda Crane
Staff Reporter

If you could give up the life you have right now for a better one, would you do it?

That question is the concept behind Larrie King's latest graphic design project, "Horizon," which has earned him two ADDY Awards.

According to the American Advertising Federation Web site (www.aaf.org), an ADDY Award is "the world's largest and arguably toughest advertising competition" and represents "the true spirit of creative excellence by recognizing all forms of advertising from media of all types, creative by all sizes and entrants of all levels from anywhere in the world."

King, a graphic design graduate student, won Best of Show in the student category and a gold ADDY Award at the 2009 regional contest held in Shreveport this month. He began working on his project in the fall 2008 semester as part of an independent studies class with Tony Watkins. That's where he first heard about the ADDY Awards.

"For my first time entering, I felt pretty confident about my work," King said. "There were some other good schools there competing so that was nerve-racking."

Inspiration for his design came from the '40s and '50s era.

"There's an idea of having a happy life and where everything is perfect like 'The Jetsons,'" King said.

King also thought of the impact that corporations such as McDonald's, Nike and Coca Cola have had on America.

King isn't a stranger when it comes to entering his work into contests. He won best in show and the people's choice award at last year's NSU student art show and won second place in the graphic design category this year. King has also been a finalist in the Photographer's Forum magazine and has been the design editor of the Argus for three years.

King knew he had won something at the contest through an e-mail he received from contest officials, but he had no idea what exactly it was until the actual ceremony.

"I was so excited to hear it was a gold award," King said. He recalled finding out how he had won his second award after he saw his name appear on a presentation slide before it was actually announced.

"It was definitely a big surprise."

Assistant Professor of Art Tony Watkins also saw gold at the ADDY Awards. He received Best of Show for a banner created for the NSU Academic Center, two gold awards, two silvers and a special Judges Award for best copy writing.

"Being judged as best of show is quite an honor," Watkins said via e-mail from France after Pole Universitaire Leonard de Vinci invited him to deliver a lecture and workshop.

Watkins design focuses on "the needs of the client and the design problem." The Academic Center banner was created in collaboration with Steven Gruesbeck, the center's coordinator during the design project.

"Each project is different, so there really isn't any overall theme. I just want to successfully communicate with the intended audience," Watkins said.

This was not his first time entering an ADDY contest. He first entered while working in South Carolina and has won several gold and silver awards prior to his recent wins. Watkins also had his work published in HOW and Graphic Design USA magazines and received American Inhouse Design Awards and a Silver Telly Award.

Since King and Watkins won at the regional level, their designs are entered into the national contest.

They must now wait until June to find out how their designs compete against other winners across the nation. If King is lucky, the judges might fall into his "Horizon."



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Janka Krajciova performs as part of the Concerto Winners Concert held in Magale Recital Hall Sunday.

Important Dates

Early registration for Fall 2009 semester:
March 30

Early registration for Summer 2009 semester:
March 30

Spring break:
April 10 - 18

Final day of classes:
Friday, May 1

Final exams:
May 1 - May 8

Spring commencement: **May 8**

Information from the University Registrar

College Student Debt Statistics

Fast Fact

According to information from Georgetown University, college students are more likely than other demographic groups to pay off their balances. Here are a few:

- 78 percent of college students have at least one credit card.
- 32 percent of college students have at least four credit cards.
- On average, students have nearly three credit cards.
- Out of graduate students, 95 percent of them have at least one credit card.

Some student loan debt statistics from the College Board include:

- Private lenders provided $14 billion in student loans. This is an increase of 734 percent from 10 years ago.
- 43 percent of students in public four-year institutions take out public student loans.
- In private non-profit colleges, 54 percent of the students take out public student loans.

Source: www.collegestudentcreditcard.com



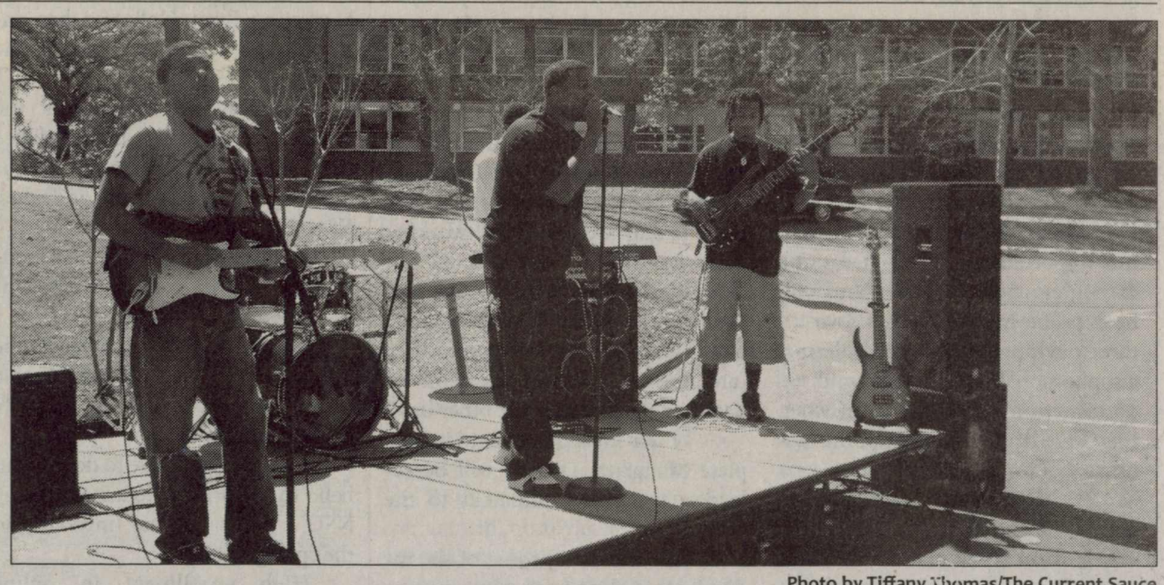


Photo by Tiffany Thomas/The Current Sauce

Sumthin' Serious performs live in front of the Friedman Student Union on March 18.

SAB brings excitement to students

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

The Student Activities Board presented the "What? We Have a Yard?" show outside the Friedman Student Union last Wednesday.

The show featured step performances by the Greek organizations Kappa Alpha Psi, Tau Beta Sigma and Alpha Phi Alpha.

Sumthin' Serious, a band comprising NSU students, charmed the crowd with renditions of popular songs from various genres including Alternative, Rap and R&B songs.

SAB outlined events for Spring Fling Week, which will take place March 30-April 3. Running mates for president and vice president of the Student Government Association Kayla Wingfield and Mathew Morrison briefly stole the show to iterate their platform to students. Mark Daniels – campaign manager for running mates Jason Thibodeaux and Chris Sanders – spoke on their behalf.

Student body unity was a goal of Ronnie Washington, coordinator of the event.

"My goal [for the yard show] was to bring excitement back to the mundaneness and do an event with a great population because it is what the students want," Washington said.

To appease the desires of students, Washington said he personally polled NSU students for their opinions.

"My job was finding out what the people want," Washington said.

After obtaining a general consensus among the students Washington then proceeded to "book the venue" and plan with what he considered to be a "good budget."

The ladies of Phi Mu choreographed a step routine, which members of the NSU College Panhellenic Council performed on a platform.

Dasha Orebeaux, who was in the performance, said the yard show was a great experience.

"It was something different," Orebeaux said. "As being a part of CPC, participating in that type of an event is usually a National Pan-Hellenic Council event, so for the ladies of Phi Mu to provide a step skit, really put us out there."

Tyran Cosey, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, said the yard show was beneficial because the people got a chance to see what the organization is about.

"We just want to make our organization look good and respectable in every aspect of life, and activities like the yard show are great in helping to continue to make our organization look better now and for the future," Cosey explained.

As the show came to a close, students seemed entertained and pleased with the show. Students crowded around the performers, calling out their friends' names.

At one point in the show, a group of girls began chanting, "We want the Kappas."

Freshman industrial engineering technology major Russell Jackson said, "We need more events like the yard show. I hadn't seen so many students at one event all year."

To ensure that events receive bigger turnouts, Washington said he will continue to look for ways to engage the student body and "do [his] part to make Demon life fun."



Photo by Tiffany Thomas/The Current Sauce

Kappa Alpha Psi performs at SAB's spring Yard Show.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
March 25, 2009



Courtesy Photo
NSU's biology department unveils a grafted tomato garden located in the greenhouse on campus.

Biology department grafts tomatoes in campus greenhouse

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

A new experiment is ripening in the biology department.

Instructor of biology Millard Mangrum and three students are grafting tomatoes in order to improve them, making them bigger and more abundant.

"What we're doing is we're taking some common heirloom varieties, and we're grafting them on what's considered to be a hearty rootstock," Mangrum said.

Mangrum explained that when grafting the plants, the scions, or tops, of the tomato plants are joined together with Maxifort rootstock bases, which are resistant to nematodes and other soil-born diseases in the area. The scion and rootstock are connected by a silicone clip, which connects the vascular systems.

When grafting the tomatoes, it is important to cut the stems at a 45-degree angle so that plants will heal properly, which is a two-to-three day process, Morgan Palermo, a sophomore biology major, said.

Palermo joined the team when they were beginning to graft the second set of tomatoes.

"[We] actually created these plants," Palermo said. "It's neat to watch them grow and watch them survive."

Mangrum initially began experimenting with this new way of grafting tomatoes in December when he grafted Arkansas Traveler tops to Maxifort bases.

"This is kind of a new thing," Mangrum said. "It's been common in the greenhouse tomato business for a long time but it's never been done very much in field expansion using heirloom tops."

Since he began this second experiment, about 150 have been grafted so far, and Mangrum hopes that he sees an improvement from the original tomatoes.

"We're going to run field trials on a couple of these varieties to see if the actual variety in this area would be better with a new rootstock on it versus what the original plant was."

Two other students are working alongside Palermo, including sophomore biology and chemistry major, Dillon Green, who joined Mangrum when he first started the experiment.

"I'm learning a lot about plants just from being around him," Green said. The students are working closely with Mangrum, who is allowing them to gain experience by working hands-on with the tomatoes.

"We do everything," Green said. "We have to make sure [the plants] have enough water, make sure they [are] the right temperature and we had to make fertilizer the other day."

When the experiment is complete Mangrum said he will be releasing these new tomatoes to the public.

"[We will have] some of the individuals in the community give us a reading on how they do," Mangrum said.

Palermo added that the plants were moved into a nursery this weekend, and it should only be a couple weeks until they are ready to be sold.

Demon spirit goes downhill



Photo by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce
NSU cheerleaders yell to empty stands at a football game, displaying deteriorating interest.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Demons give their best at every sports event and bleed purple and white whether the stands are full or not.

Demon school spirit has been falling over the last couple of years, and some students are asking themselves how can they make Demon spirit better.

Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing Ryan Holloway has answers – and even a solution – to the lack of spirit on campus.

Holloway mentioned that the number of students in attendance fluctuates at football games and is based on the visiting teams and when NSU is scheduled to play them.

The lack of dormitories on campus also plays a part in whether or not school spirit will thrive.

Junior biology major Stephanie Montgomery feels that some people have school spirit, but the majority of the campus does not.

NSU said goodbye to dorms and hello to the private housing, making NSU a nontraditional university in the spring of 2008.

High enrollment in online courses is another factor in the lack of school spirit, which leads to the decrease of student enrollment on campus.

NSU is losing on-campus students, which is negatively affecting student life.

According to the NSU Fact Book, in Spring 2004, 2,649 [25.2 percent] students took online classes and 7,856 [74.8 percent] students were full time on campus.

As of spring 2008, 4,046 [54.04 percent] students were taking online courses and 3,439 [45.95 percent] students were on campus every day.

Over a span more than four years online learning has increased by 176.375 students each semester and decreased on campus.

Holloway, accompanied by a few others in the sports department, created the now two-year-old Demon Rewards Program.

The program was modeled after one from Texas A&M University and has proven to be very successful so far on campus.

Demon Rewards is a loyalty program that rewards students for coming to events and showing support for the Demons.

The objective is for students to attend events and set records for all sports while concentrating on volleyball, tennis, cross country and track.

"To draw students in we do all sorts of promotions," Holloway said. "At soccer games we promote 25 cent hot dogs for students. To pack Prather Coliseum, students receive Double Demon Points for double headers basketball games."

Starter Level students, who accumulate 10 points, will receive an official Demon Rewards T-shirt. All-Southland Level students must reach 20 points to receive an official Demon Rewards long sleeve T-shirt. All-American Level students must attain 35 points and receive an official Demon Rewards messenger bag, and Hall of Fame Level students attain 50 points and receive an official Demon Rewards replica NSU football jersey.

The Grand Prize goes to the student who accumulates the most points during the fall '08 semester. That student will receive a check in the amount of the cost of tuition for 15 hours ($1,700).

The runner-up will receive a check in the amount of $500.

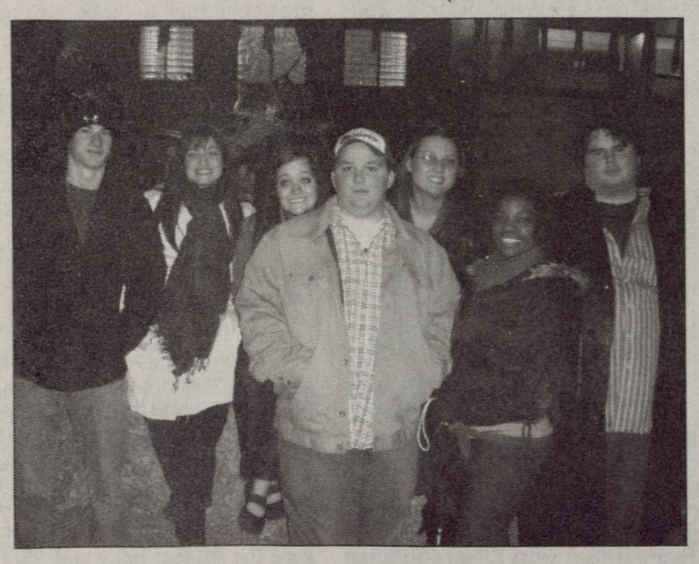
"Demon Rewards has been exciting because it has been successful and has brought more students to athletic events," Holloway said. "If we keep building on the program, we could have the best student life any school has seen."

Demons on campus should show up, show spirit, sing loud and proud, and cheer for the school they pay to attend.

"Purple and white shall forever reign, filling the air with battle strain. So, Demons forever stand and fight for dear old Demonland."

Question – how many NSU students know the lines above are from the last verse of the fight song?

If only you had actually paid attention at Freshman Connection, then that question would be a no-brainer.



Courtesy photo
Seven NSU student media leaders attended the College Media Advisers Spring Convention in New York City. Visit thecurrentsauce.com for a photo slideshow.

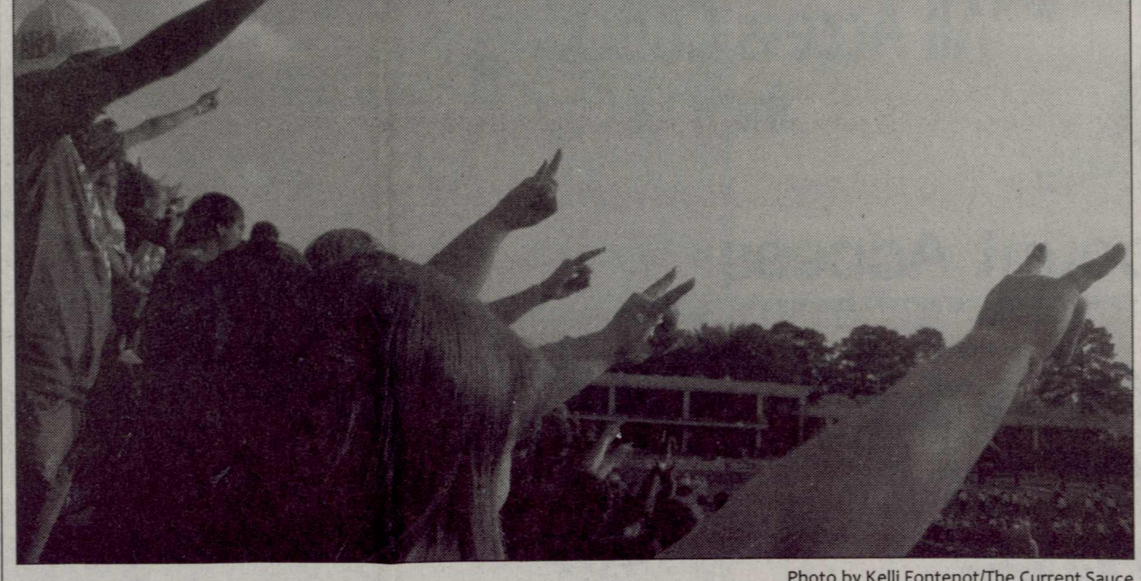


Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce
Fans show school spirit and cheer for the Demons at a football game in the fall of 2008.

Student Media
Several student media positions will be open next fall. Application forms and guidelines can be picked up in Room 108 of Kyser Hall.

Available positions are:
- Editor in chief of the Argus literary magazine
- Editor in chief of The Current Sauce
- Editor in chief of the 2010 Potpourri yearbook
- General Manager for KNWD 91.7 FM The Demon

Submit applications by April 1, 2009 at 1 p.m.

SAB 'I Love the 90's' Spring Fling Week

Monday, March 30, 1-5 p.m.
Kick Off Carnival
Kyser Brickway
Inflatables, Games, prizes & giveaway, free food

Tuesday, March 31, 8-10 p.m.
"Are You Afraid of The Dark" Dance party
Student Union Ballroom
90's music, food, dance contest

Wednesday, April 1, 2-6 p.m.
"Legends of the Hidden Temple"
University Place I Pool Area
Obstacle Course, Water Slide, Swimming Pool, Crawfish Boil

Concert @ 7 p.m.
Student Union Lobby
Johnnyswim

Links:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j26ouTlCmvI
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bneDKBQqgI0
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_t5SiwE_qYs

Thursday, April 2, 7-10 p.m.
"All That Comedian Show"
Student Union Ballroom
Come for a Laughing Good Time

****Featuring Theo Von from the Real World and Howard Hall****

Links:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9LlNc4tNPM
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDk51-uQvKc
http://theovon.typepad.com/

Friday, April 3, 8-12 p.m.
"Cardboard Box Benefit Concert"
Student Union Back Parking Lot

****Live Band****
Camp out and raise money to benefit the homeless.

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor
jcunning002@student.nsula.edu
March 25, 2009

OPINIONS 5

Half the Battle: Major League debt

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



I really wanted to come to you today to complain about AIG and Jim Cramer, but I don't have the energy.

First of all, no one really pays attention to what $165 million means. Yeah, it's a lot. Whatever.

We've spent years being upset about oil prices, Iraq and the series finale of "Gilmore Girls."

No? Maybe it was just me.

Regardless, we're too tired to be pissed anymore.

My main problem is the fact that we see that much spent a lot more frequently than in business scandals.

In fact, $165 million would have covered the payroll of just about every major league baseball team. For some, it would have doubled it.

For the Yankees, that's just one contract.

The Yankees are doing something I used to do with Pokémon cards. They are building the strongest deck possible and spending a lot more than necessary to do so.

Apparently, Mark Teixeira is the newest holographic Charizard, but Charizard was overrated anyway.

You could take him out with a few well-placed Wartortles… but I digress.

Or, if you played Yu-Gi-Oh!, how about comparing CC Sabathia as Exodia?

Am I going way too far into nerd territory for your comfort? We're just getting started.

Just kidding. I'm done.

But really, New York, a $161 million contract for one guy? That seems a bit excessive. A $1.3 billion stadium? Was that necessary?

For your information, no, I don't hate the Yankees, but I do agree with comedian Doug Stanhope on something.

"Rooting for the Yankees is like going to a casino and cheering for the house."

We're spending hundreds of dollars a game to go see these horrendously stacked teams hit a ball a few hundred yards.

After the ball obliterates the skull of our neighbor, we then pummel each other for this soon-to-be stolen property.

I just had another idea to save the economy.

Let the MLB offer up some money. I think a few hundred billion dollars might make up for the $85 Red Sox blanket my mom bought in Boston.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Be Frank: Pay the fare, take the journey

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



"All my bags are packed. I'm ready to go. I'm standing here outside your door. I hate to wake you up to say goodbye. But the dawn is breaking, it's early morn. The taxi's waiting. He's blowin' his horn…Hold me like you'll never let me go. 'Cause I'm leaving on a jet plane.

Don't know when I'll be back again. Oh babe, I hate to go." (John Denver, "Leaving on a Jet Plane")

Everyone has been there. Everyone has experienced the best moments of his or her life thus far.

You boarded a plane or climbed into a taxi and left for a journey unknown.

This past week, seven student media members took a jet plane, a taxi and a subway to experience the wonders of New York City.

We went with high hopes of the city, but we left with a new idea of expectations. Nothing is as it seems, and you need to look past face values to find the true beauty.

New Yorkers are rude, food is overpriced and they run out of green beer way too early in the night, but the night lives on.

In the city that never sleeps, there is always something to find entertaining. There is always a photo to snag and a story to tell.



Photo by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce

But like any experience, you need to remain open to all the possibilities and ensure you never take anything for granted.

You need to be willing to step slightly outside your comfort zone and branch out to find the exceptional. NYC is more than a ball and a statue. It is the little novelties that make the city great.

It is the joy of a homeless man telling you he loves you and everyone needs one of you around. It is the glee of finally seeing rats in the subway and then taking time to follow them while waiting for your train.

It is the shock of being able to finally meet a real TV star and see her walk in front of her fans signing autographs. It is the green shots the bartender made since they ran out of green beer so you could celebrate St. Patrick's Day in NYC.

It is the random homeless man attempting to sell you crack at McDonald's, which of course you graciously declined. It is the endless search for free Internet, which was captured on camera with an Australian narrator.

It is the naked cowboy, Elvis and the black Batman working for loose change in the center of Times Square. It is learning to Hula-hoop in Central Park with a random man playing the bongos.

It is the first bite of street-vendor hotdog after a long day of convention sessions that forever will make any other hotdog taste subpar.

New York City is everything you could want it to be – if you give it the chance.

Once you give the city the opportunity to let you in, it won't matter that the Statue of Liberty and the New Year's Eve ball are too small or the city is too crowded.

Because once you look past the petty complaints, just like any city or adventure, NYC holds the key to so many opportunities.

You just need to be willing to hop on the taxi and pay the fare.

SGA presidential candidates present their platforms

Kayla Wingfield
SGA Presidential Candidate

We want RSO's to become more active not only with the campus but with each other. With the recent budget cuts in the state, funds are limited, so cutting the student fees for SAB or ANY organization/activity is the last thing on our mind. These people are great and need all the money and support they can get!

One way we plan to do this is to reduce the number of obstacles these RSO's have in putting on events. Whether these problems stem from not having enough money to not being able to advertise well enough, we WILL find ways to work around these obstacles. We would also like to see the RSO's working with the Student Alumni Association to coordinate Pep Rallies.

Two more issues students have to deal with are Student Housing and On-Campus Dining. Many students feel that they are not being listened to by Sodexho and the Housing Management. We hope to address these issues by taking a positive, interactive approach with Sodexho and student housing, in particular by building bridges of communication between students and administration, and strengthening the links that already exist.

Another issue is student safety, one in particular being evening gate closures. Many students do not feel safe on campus since there is a lack of communication between the police force, the administration, and the student body. Again, we plan on addressing this issue by working with the police and the administration to address all of the students' issues.

Students united support each other. This is why we will encourage students to support each other in the arts, athletics, and academics. After discussing the issue with many students, we feel that the Freshman Orientation classes need to be re-vamped. This is, in part, to help the theatre, music, and athletic departments have more participation in the future. We hope to get students excited about the arts and athletics by re-evaluating how orientation classes are run. We will work closely with the administration in determining how exactly to handle this particular goal.

Communication is perhaps the most important thing an administration can promote. Therefore, when elected into office, we will ensure that ALL students are aware of the SGA's activities. We will do this is by creating a cabinet position dedicated to promoting communication between the SGA and RSO's and between the RSO's themselves.

With the current economic situation, students are finding it more and more difficult to drive to different campuses to take Standardized Testing Preparation classes, for tests such as the GRE, LSAT, and MCAT. We need these courses on our campus because students cannot afford these classes as they are currently set up. We will put plans into motion in order to get these courses on the Natchitoches campus. They will function as 4 hour courses, and we hope to have them here at NSU in the Spring of 2010 at the very earliest.

Jason Thibodeaux
SGA Presidential Candidate

During our time on the senate, we (myself and running mate Chris Sanders) have both seen many different problems at NSU.

We have listened to every one of them and compiled what we feel are the most important. We do say all of this with the disclaimer that we are only two people. To fix all of this will take the dedication and work of the whole senate and lots more input from students.

We can make promises all day but it comes down to all that we can do is provide direction and show thought our past accomplishments that we know what it takes to make a difference.

We feel that senate reform and accountability is going to be the corner stone of our administration. With out active and involved Senators, we can not accomplish anything.

We can promise the moon and the stars, but everything SGA does must be approved by the Senate. It is a common misunderstanding that the President can do what ever he or she wants, but his power is given by the senators.

One idea floating around to improve efficiency is requiring that the three office hours should be in the office instead of anywhere. Also we would like to have senators talk more with administration. We think that this would be a great way to have the senate take more pride in their work.

We have been working for the last year on a program for a Residence Hall Association.

As of now we have the plans in place to have representatives from all three complexes, as well as representatives from Campus Living Villages as well as the university.

We have been in discussion with administrators about this and they support it.

Both of us have been in close contact with both Vance and the new general manager Charles Lear on ways to improve dining on campus. We were instrumental in the start and implementation of the secret shopper program, which has given Sodexo many areas to improve on. We know that campus dinning is not perfect, but has come along way in the last two years.

We believe that continuing to give constructive ideas and support is the only way that the changes the students want will be enacted

The state of Greek Life is something that is troublesome to both of us. We are worried that with out support from the Student Government, things Greek members do now will not be able to go on.

We want to make sure all Greeks and RSO's are aware of money the school has available through the Organizational Relief Fund for travel and Organizational Grants to help with bettering the image of NSU through your organization. We would also like to work more with Order of Omega to continue to support out athletics through pep rallies.

We have been on the leading edge of trying to communicate with students more about what SGA does. We attended a meeting last week with other SGA members regarding having a functional website. We feel that if students were not able to attend our meetings they should be able to just click and read what we are doing. This way can at least know if we are working on the problems they have.

We believe that our past accomplishments speak for themselves and that we have the ability to lead this organization through our experience and contacts we have made as senators.

Fork'Em

Red vs. Blue: Thinking of the children

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



Abortion was made a popular issue in the last presidential election, but now that the race is over it does not seem to be getting much attention.

Gov. Sarah Palin was both criticized and admired for her strong pro-life stance in her years in politics.

Personally, I deeply admire Palin for her courage to stand up for what is right.

I do not mean she is right because we think the same. She is right because she encourages life.

Life is a blessing and to live in America, no matter what some say, is a blessing in itself.

We have the ability to grow up and do whatever we want to do.

We also have the ability to make goals and have dreams and most importantly, accomplish those dreams. In this country, one ordinary son of immigrants, like Bobby Jindal, could grow up to be a governor.

In America, a movie star like Ronald Reagan could live to be one of the greatest presidents of all time.

There are so many gifts and advantages to living in America.

There is one thing though that I will never understand, and that is why someone would want to take the gift of life away. There is no price that can be put on human life and that is why I am pro-life. This is not because I'm a conservative and that is one stance we are known for, but because there is never a time when an innocent baby should have his life taken away from him.

There are different ways an abortion is done. Some mothers will take pills that will end the pregnancy and some have operations that I will not go into detail about, not because it is not interesting to know, but because it is sickening.

Different ways an abortion can be performed are listed at www.proliferation.org/faq/abortion. On this same Web site is a list of how many abortions have been performed since abortion was made legal in 1973.

This number was last updated in 2005. The number is more than 46 million. If that does not make you sick, I do not know what will.

The lives of more than 46 million babies have been taken away before they got the chance to live them.

For the full version of this story, visit our Web site, thecurrentsauce.com.

Heath Boddie
Guest Columnist



Abortion. This one issue divides people so decisively that groups on both sides often resort to violence for their beliefs.

Conservatives yell about the sanctity of life while liberals cling to the belief of the woman's right to choose. While this may surprise some of my fellow Democrats, I am pro-life. While being pro-life, I do not feel that Roe v. Wade should be overturned. Abortions should be uncommon, and in a majority of cases, abortions can be prevented with sex education in our high schools and options being made more easily available for adoption.

Republicans, however much they claim to oppose abortion, are the ones whose policies are pushing more women to have abortions.

Republicans in the Louisiana state legislature recently tried to pass a bill that would allow abstinence-only education to be taught, for they seemingly believe teenagers do not have sex.

This policy is faulty because the states that officially teach this "education" have the highest percentage of teen pregnancies in the nation.

I am not sure why Republicans fail to link the two together. They continue to cling to abstinence-only education in the thought that somehow it will change and prevent pregnancies, but it will fail in what they hope to do, like most other Republican policies. One thing that Republicans never see is that a number of women will obtain an abortion no matter what some law says, and if Roe v. Wade is overturned, these women will turn to "back-alley" clinics and unsafe environments to abortions, something I would hope Republicans would want to avoid. One answer that could bring abortions down would be allow gays to adopt children and to stop banning these people from adopting children.

It's interesting to watch Republicans rant, rave and start foaming at the mouth in opposition to abortion but do nothing to alleviate the suffering of those families that have trou- 'le feeding their five kids, and their children go to bed hungry at night.

Republicans do nothing to stop kids from starving to death in foreign lands and have no pity on children living on the streets in this country.

Grow up, Republicans. Realize that abortion is something we may not like, but it is needed as a choice for some women.

Mavericks romp Demons in conference sweep

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The University of Texas at Arlington Mavericks stampeded the Northwestern State Demon baseball team in a three-game sweep this weekend.

NSU entered the game 4-1 in conference, but the sweep evened out the Demons' conference record at 4-4. In game one, Maverick pitcher Andy Sauter threw a complete game, three-hit shutout in a 5-0 win.

In their previous five conference games, the Demons belted the ball, averaging 11 hits and nine runs per game, while batting .306 as a team. Junior outfielder Tyler Baisley broke up Sauter's no-hitter in the top of the fifth.

No Demon runner advanced past first base, while Sauter faced only 31 batters. Senior pitcher Jimmy Heard got his first loss of the season, falling to 3-1. Heard pitched seven innings, giving up five runs, three earned. He walked a batter and struck out two.

Heard moved into fourth on NSU's all-time career record list with 281.2 innings pitched. He passed Scott Stagner who pitched 281.1 innings from 1977-'80.

Junior infielder Trent Grondin collected two of the Demons' three hits, extending his hit streak to 10 games.

The Demons' bats came alive Saturday, but stranding five base runners late in the game landed the Demons with another loss. NSU stranded nine base runners, five in the last two innings.

UTA took game two from the Demons 4-2, as NSU belted 11 hits in the loss. Grondin extended his hitting streak to 11 games, having two hits on the day. Dan Meyer and Chase Lyles also pounded out two hits each, with Meyer smashing a solo shot in the top of the fourth to the put the Demons on the board.

After a strong conference start, the Demons had brought only three runners across the plate in the last 27 innings, including a loss to LSU on March 17.

That streak extended to 36 innings as NSU was dominated 16-0, in a mercy-ruled seven-inning game. Despite hammering 11 hits in the contest, the Mavs handed the Demons their worst loss since UTA pounded NSU 18-3 last April.

UTA had 17 hits with six players getting two or more hits. NSU starting pitcher Kyle Broughton took the loss after he pitched only 1 1/3 innings, giving up six runs on six hits and two strikeouts. Broughton faced 11 batters before being pulled.

Grondin extended his hitting streak to 12 games, going 2 for 4 on the day. Meyer went 3 for 3 on the day and catcher Beau Snodgrass and outfielder Colin Bear went 2 for 3 each.

The Mavericks scored 12 of their 16 runs in the first two innings, putting the game away early.

Taking a break from conference action, the Demons hosted Centenary College in a battle of in-state rivals Tuesday night. NSU failed to find their bats, falling 3-2 for their fifth straight loss.

"I told our guys that it was two pretty evenly matched teams out there," Demon head coach J.P. Davis said. "We had more opportunities than they did, but they took advantage of them."

Both teams finished with six hits, with Justin O'Neal being the only Demon with multiple hits (2 for 4). Catcher Beau Snodgrass and designated hitter Joe Urtuzuastegui drove in the only runs for the Demons.

Six Centenary players pounded a hit each, with designated hitter Michael Tomkins driving in two of Centenary's three runs.

NSU continues action Wednesday night, visiting No. 11 Texas A&M. Game time is 6:35 p.m.

The Demons return to home action March 31, hosting the University of Louisiana at Monroe. First pitch is set for 6:30 p.m.

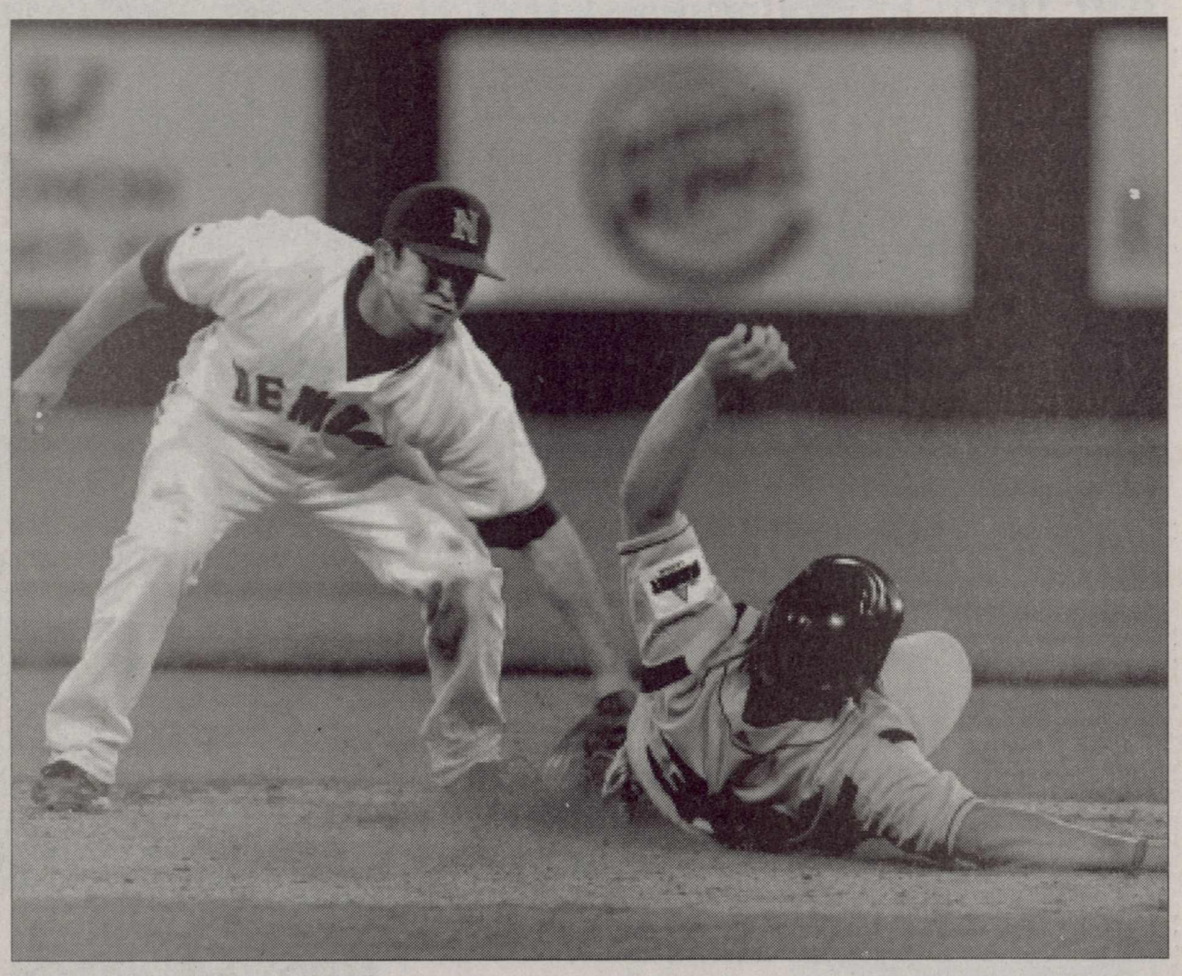


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Junior infielder Trent Grondin tags out a baserunner in the Demons' 3-2 loss to Centenary Tuesday night. NSU faces Texas A&M Wednesday night in College Station, Texas.

Tennis faulters in mid-season

Lady Demons sit at 7-5, .500 in conference

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The NSU tennis team has hit a rough patch in the season, losing three of its last four matches, the latest coming to the hands of the Lady Ragin' Cajuns, six to one.

This match aganist University of Louisiana-Lafayette comes after a nine-day layoff.

"Playing on the road is always tough," head coach Patrick DuBois said. "The layoff didn't help us too much either."

The lone win for the Lady Demons came from Dragana Colic in the No. 6 singles match. She won her match 6-4, 6-0 against Tara Vasovic.

Kathrin Lang and Bianca Shultz loss their first match of the season to Milou Isreal and Angela Dangond of the ULL.

The NSU duo lost 8 sets to 5 in the No. 2 doubles match.

ULL was able to hold off the Lady Demons to win the doubles point by the score of 2-1.

The lone doubles win came from Adna Curukovic and Daniela Posada as they breezed into an 8-1 victory.

The Lady Demons lost all but one singles match, but kept it close in the ones they lost.

In the No. 1 singles match, Curukovic lost in three sets 6-3, 4-6 and 3-6.

Lange lost another close one to the hands of Isreal in a three-set nail-biter 6-4, 3-6 and 7-5.

Shultz also followed the trend of pushing the match to three sets, losing 7-5, 6-4 and 6-3.

"This was probably one of our weakest matches of the year." DuBois said. "We really didn't find our rhythm and the lack of matches this far into the season affected us a bit."

This win for the Ragin' Cajuns extends their winning streak to four straight, improving their record to 4-8.

The Lady Demons' record drops to 7-5 on the season.

The NSU tennis team won't return to action until March 28 when they host Southland Conference rival Southeastern Louisiana University.

"The rest of the season looks really good for us." Dubois said. "We still have seven more conference matches and a few more that we need to make up because of the rain, but I hope that with all these matches coming up it will allow us to peak in the conference tournament."



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Junior centerfielder Randi Stuard (13) celebrates with her teammates after her RBI triple.

First-year head coach struggles

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

In his first season at the helm, head coach Donald Pickett has his work cut out for the Lady Demons as they are the not-so-proud owners of a seven-game losing streak, and the team has lost 15 of its last 16.

The last three losses came to the hands of the University of Texas at Arlington Lady Mavericks this weekend.

In the first game, NSU was limited to only three hits offensively, as the Lady Mavs won 4-0. Senior outfielder Cary Bruno, junior infielder Stormi Stech and sophomore Taywanee Edmonds were the only ones to reach base on singles.

The second game of the Saturday doubleheader would begin differently.

The Lady Demons raced out to an early lead. Leadoff hitter Randi Stuard led off with a single.

Subsequential walks by Stech and Samantha Roberts left the bases loaded for Tiffany Ward as she got a base hit to right field-scoring Stuard.

Later in the inning with two outs, Cassy Poncik got hit by a pitch, scoring Stech from third to give the Lady Demons a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

Starting pitcher Leigh Appenfellar was able to keep the Lady Mavs off the board until a three run homerun by UTA's Whitney Simpson put the Lady Mavs up by the score of 4-2.

UTA would score one more run to make it a final of 5-2. Both Tiffany Ward and Amanda Jameson went 2-4 in the second game.

One of Jameson's hits was a one-out double off the top of the fence in the top of the seventh.

The third and final game of the series ended much like the first two, with the Lady Demons on the wrong side of the scoreboard.

This time the outcome was 6-2, UTA. NSU held it close until the bottom of the sixth inning when the Lady Mavs racked up three runs to make the score 6-2.

NSU scored its two runs thanks in part to a triple by Randi Stuard, scoring Ainsley Pellerin, and an Amanda Jameson single in the top of the third.

"We executed a lot better this weekend," Jameson said. "It was just those extra few we needed and couldn't capitalize."

The Lady Demons' record now stands at 3-25 overall and 1-13 in the Southland Confrence.

The double-header scheduled aganist Prairie View A&M on Tuesday has been rescheduled for April 28.

The Lady Demons return to the Demon Diamond on Saturday as they host SLC rival Southeastern Louisiana.

Spring Demon Rewards Standings

1) Chris Smith - 28
2) Sam Spence - 27
3) Cara Binford - 27
4) Fletcher Jonson 26
5) Matt Fowler - 25
6) Matt English - 25
7) Gavin Montgomery - 21
8) Nic Russo - 20
9) Andy Bullard - 19
10) Sara Elliot - 19
11) Brandon Martin-17
12) Alix Andres - 15

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Track team, Fillinich bring home wins from Dogwood Relays

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Northwestern State track and field team gathered four wins and 15 more top-three finishes, with three-time All-America javelin thrower Cody Fillinich hurling a throw of 235-7 in his first competition in two seasons.

Junior Mike Green ran away with first place in the 100-meter dash, while junior hurdler Mike Hill took the top spot in the 110-meter hurdles.

Junior thrower DeJon Griffin improved her personal best and school record throw with a toss of 176-4, which is two feet better than her season-opening performance at the Northwestern Relays.

Senior thrower Corey Jones won the shot put, heaving a throw of 54-6 3/4. His toss was nearly a foot better than the second-best throw. Teammate Buck Thompson finished fourth in the shot put with a 50-7 1/4 mark. Jones also finished second in the discus (165-4).

The Lady Demons' 4x400 team finished just short of the first-place mark, .02 seconds behind Stephen F. Austin University.

Anna Forest, Jessica Tuck, Shamaigun VanBuren and Whitney Smith comprised that second-place team. Senior thrower Daniel Yarbrough claimed second place in the hammer throw with a 179-10 mark and took third place in the discus (165-5).

Fillinich, along with Green and Hill, earned spots in the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships in May. Fillinich won the 2007 Southland Conference title with a throw of 237-1 and finished fourth in the NCAA Championships the same year.

Green also won the 400-meter dash in the Dogwood Relays, finishing with a 47.02, sneaking by Sam Houston State's Darryl Hanes, and led four Demons in the top eight.

Three Lady Demon runners placed in the 100-meter dash, led by VanBuren who took second (12.82). Sophomore Greg Hall finished second in the high jump (6-4 3/4).

The Demons finished in third place, with a total score of 136 1/2 points, trailing SFA (226 1/2) and Sam Houston (140). Louisiana-Monroe (79), Arkansas-Pine Bluff (50) and Texas-Tyler (41) trailed for the last three spots.

The Lady Demons finished in fourth with 93 points, behind SFA (275), Sam Houston (126) and ULM (99). Behind NSU were Arkansas-Pine Bluff with 54 and Texas-Tyler with 21.

The Demons and Lady Demons continue action this weekend at LSU.

The Current Sausage

Northwestern State University

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 26

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Super hero

A masked vigilante saves lives at NSU.

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Jurassic Park

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New recruit

Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man joins softball team.

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Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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POLICY

None of the content in this April Fools' Day issue of The Current Sauce should be taken seriously.

"The Current Sausage," the lampoon edition of The Current Sauce, has been an April Fools' Day tradition for many years at NSU.

None of the stories, photos, captions or headlines in the story are meant to cause harm or offense to anyone.

The content of this issue does not necessarily reflect the personal views of our editors, writers, staff members or advertisers.

Happy April Fools' Day.

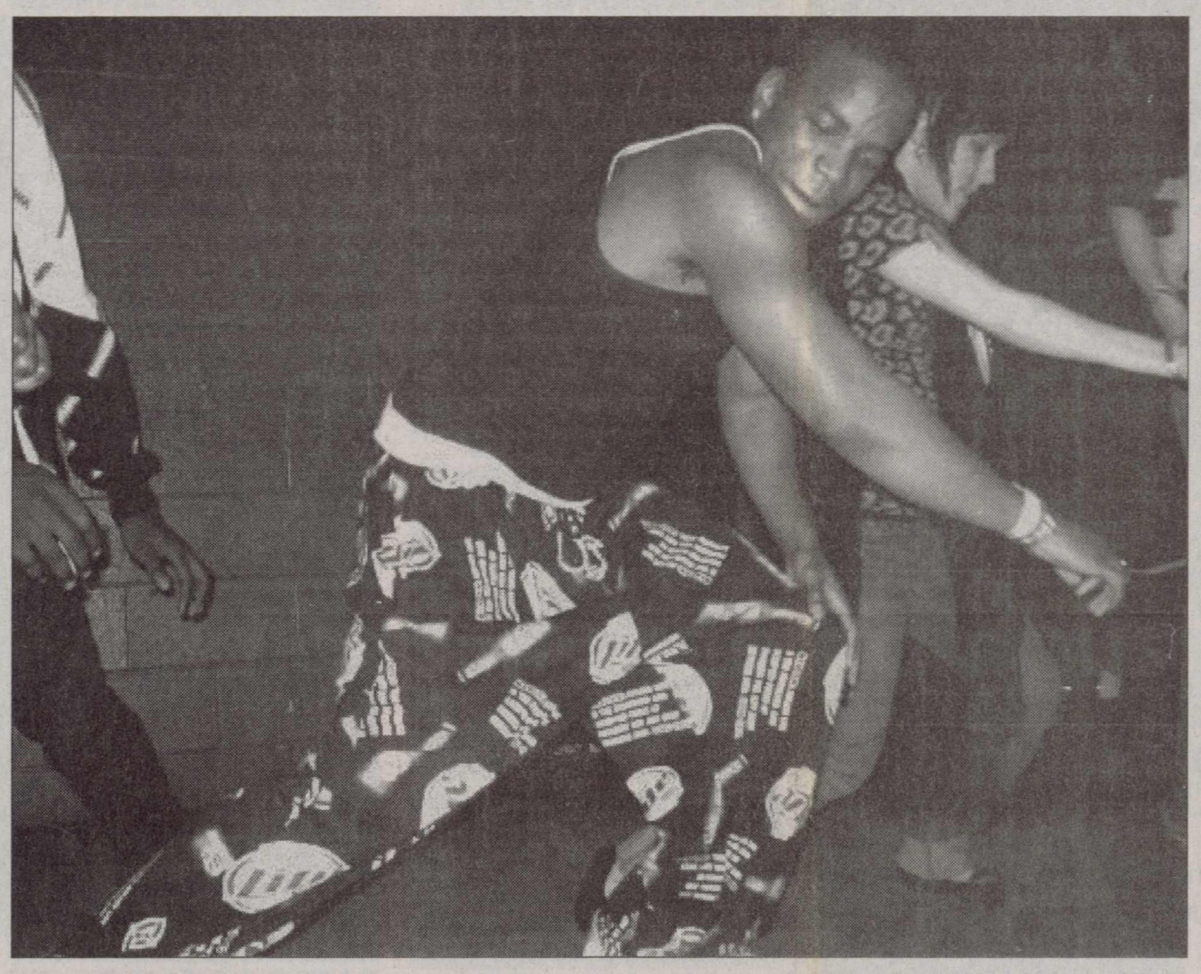


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Marc Jarall Baxter has been afflicted by the highly contagious "Stanky Leg" disease.

Students 'do da Stanky Leg'

Kelli Fontenot
Epidemic Analyst

A dangerous epidemic is sweeping across the Northwestern State campus, affecting students of various majors, ages and races.

Students all over campus have been affected by the disease, which medical professionals have officially named "Da Stanky Leg."

The onset of the disease is characterized by sudden movements of the leg, which can seem awkward at first, but slowly evolve into more elastic motion.

These symptoms are usually brought on by auditory intake of a particular set of sound waves in a particular arrangement. These sound waves – often referred to as a "song" – are often emitted through speakers at nightclubs and popular gathering places off campus.

Sophomore general studies major Michael Tarkin said he witnessed a sudden outbreak of da Stanky Leg at a club this weekend.

"I was just standing there holding my drink, and all of a sudden a bunch of people started doing it [da Stanky Leg]," he said. "I got out of there as fast as I could."

Tarkin was able to avoid being infected, but others – including Tarkin's sister, Maggie Tarkin – were not as fortunate.

"She was a freshman," he said. "She was about to make up a midterm, but after she did the Stanky leg, there wasn't much we could do for her."

The epidemic caused pandemonium as it spread through town, rendering students incapable of not doing da Stanky Leg.

Medical professionals have isolated the origin of the 'Stanky Leg,' linking the disease to Restless Legs Syndrome. No official evidence of the correlation between these conditions has been made public, but several physicians have gone on the record saying they're "pretty sure" the two are connected.

"Some people look really cool doing it, but with other people, it's just unfortunate," Bubbles Magee, Natchitoches podiatrist, said. "It's like watching someone suffer."

Medical professionals have not discovered a cure for the disease, but they expect that the Stanky Leg will slowly fade out.

Additional symptoms include a loss of inhibition and a desire to "Wild out," or make a complete fool of one's self in front of strangers.

To prevent infection, doctors advise that people stay away from loud speakers and music that might incite dancing. Large crowds are also dangerous because the Stanky Leg is very contagious.

In extreme cases, people are advised to tie their legs together to keep from becoming infected with the disease.

"I mean, you can't do the Stanky Leg when your legs are tied together," Magee said. "It just makes sense."

Campus melting

Kelli Fontenot
Temperature Reporter

Another building began showing signs of melting under the pressure of global warming this week.

Temperatures soared to a sweltering 187 degrees this weekend, and the especially dry atmosphere caused many structures on campus to begin the melting process.

Students reported seeing Fournet Hall's sign slowly sliding down the side of the building on Monday.

After further inspection, university officials said the rest of the building seems to be intact, but the obvious display of insecurity has made some students and faculty members confused, uncomfortable and scared for the safety of future generations.

When asked what students should do in the event of a global warming emergency, local police said they weren't sure yet, but that they were working on it.

"There's certainly no police code for that, let alone a procedure we could follow," one police officer said.

University officials have taken note of emergency actions taking place at other colleges.

Administrators recently advised students to purchase refrigerators that are roughly the size of their bodies or the bodies of other people whose lives they would consider saving if a scenario similar to the plot of the movie "The Day After Tomorrow" actually happened.

Students should plan to reside in their refrigerators – deemed "Personal Cooling Units" – for at least two weeks until an "All Clear" signal is broadcast, officials said.

"We're hoping enough people will be able to find refrigerators with walls that are thin enough to be able to hear the alarms through the walls," one police officer said. "We're not sure that people would figure out that something was wrong if we didn't blast a loud air raid-type of siren."

The systems will be turned to a high volume to prevent students from doing anything other than listening.

In addition, NSU Purple Alert system coordinators said they are unsure of how Purple Alert would be used in the event of a heat wave. They are currently evaluating whether the world melting would constitute an "emergency."

Global warming, a hoax implemented by the government to scare future generations into recycling, has been the talk of bored people, bloggers and the liberal media for entirely too long.

Al Gore stated in a recent liberal media-only press conference that he strongly advised wearing sunscreen in this trying time.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Fournet Hall was one of the buildings affected by the sweltering heat, causing its sign to drip down the side.

Backhoes invade campus

Kelli Fontenot
Senior Invasion Analyst

A coalition of construction vehicles has begun terrorizing students in an effort to pressure the administration to cease using them for renovation projects on campus.

The infirmary on campus reported that at least four students came away from the most recent incident with minor injuries, including sprains and bruises.

The NSU Police Department is yet unaware of the cause of the robot uprising, but the situation is a culmination of a long-standing feud between the machines –commonly referred to by humans as "backhoes" – and several buildings on campus.

When the first building on campus was constructed in 1884, many people believed that motorized backhoes had not yet been invented.

Backhoes, in fact, were beamed to Earth during the 17th century. For years, they slumbered in silence as mankind slowly moved its way across continents.

When they finally deemed humans worthy of their assistance, backhoes played a major role in the construction of many buildings at NSU.

When backhoes were introduced to the campus, buildings were outraged.

Dodd Hall, Varnado Hall and Sabine Hall originally wanted to boycott the presence of students and faculty this semester, but members of the administration negotiated with them to allow humans in the building.



Photo by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce

Backhoes have been slowly taking over NSU all year.

Backhoes have been a subtle presence on campus, rearing their mechanical heads at locations like Chaplain's Lake, Fournet Hall and Boozman Hall.

The most recent attack on students occurred Monday afternoon at the Spring Fling carnival sponsored by the Student Activities Board.

When students turned up to partake in the free food and entertaining activities, the backhoes took advantage of the opportunity to attack.

The backhoes slowly began to attack, plowing through crowds of screaming students and faculty.

Everyone miraculously escaped alive. People who did not witness the attack later said it must have been when their backs were turned as they watched the entertainment provided by the dunking booth.

Circumcision clinic opens

David Royal
Grand Poobah

Outside of the Natchitoches Parish Circumcision Clinic, which opened Monday, several hundreds of people have gathered for the past three days to protest.

Each day the number of the people in the crowd has steadily risen.

Although no violence has erupted thus far, the Natchitoches City Police have assigned two officers to ensure the safety of others.

"We're just out here as a safety precaution," said Steve Hanson, who is a six-year veteran with the Natchitoches City Police.

"One minute they could be yelling about circumcision, and the next people could be dead."

The privately owned clinic located on Keyser Avenue solely focuses on the practice of circumcision, owner Chester Williams said.

"For whatever the reason may be, we accept any male – even children with parental/guardian consent – who would like to undergo the simple procedure," Williams said.

Because the primary reason behind receiving the circumcision is due to insecurity, Williams said the information of every patient at the Natchitoches Parish Circumcision Clinic is kept confidential.

Those males brave enough to even enter the clinic, however, has taken great verbal abuse and ridicule from the protestors outside.

"Foreskin is our friend!" is of the phrases being yelled outside of the recently opened clinic.

The vast majority of the protesters are part of a worldwide movement called Keep Things Natural.

Started by a group of college students in Belgium, members of the movement not only oppose the act of circumcision, but anything that is not natural.

Extremists of Keep Things Natural have even gone to the lengths of abandoning basic hygiene products and the use of contraceptives.

Billy Sanchez has been present both Monday and Tuesday outside of the clinic protesting and said he has been a follower of Keep Things Natural for a year.

"The other followers and I feel that if God wanted us to be circumcised, then he would have made us without foreskin," said Sanchez, who is also a senior biology major at NSU. "He didn't, though, so we should be proud of what we have and not try to change it because of what society thinks."

Other ways Sanchez stays true to his beliefs of Keep Things Natural is by abstaining from receiving a haircut and growing his own food in the backyard.

Williams said he is not discouraged by the protesters.

"We originally intended for this," Williams said. "Any time genitals are involved, people get pretty worked up."

Although his opening week has not been ideal, Williams said he is not scared for his clinic.

"Sure, our circumcision numbers are pretty low right now because of the protesters, but once they see we aren't going anywhere, business will go up," Williams said.

David Royal
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SAB presents new $12M lotto

Tiffany Thomas
The Chemist

Students will have the opportunity to fatten their wallets as the Student Activities Board seals the deal on its latest venture, the Demon Lottery, which will award $12 million to one lucky student.

SAB representative at large and brains behind the Lottery, Corona Andrewston, said the opposition and skepticism toward her idea was disheartening but rewarding.

"I had to really fight to push my idea through and convince my fellow members of SAB that it was a good idea, however controversial it may be," she said.

Controversial indeed, considering the Lottery will require the use of the entire SAB budget as well as several fundraisers and bank robberies.

"Our whole budget is going into this [the lottery], but I think it's just what we need to really engage the students and make SAB all it can be," said Dominico Jameson, another representative at large.

A process that started last fall has finally come full circle and the Demon Lottery is now a reality.

The Lottery will officially begin in the Fall 2009 semester and will comprise Bingo tournaments held every three hours throughout the entire semester in addition to the Friday Lotto.

Students can either win cash prizes, University Bookstore coupons, gift cards, NSU apparel, school supplies, snow tires, tangerines, printing presses, lion cubs, diamond rings, giant pretzels, Hummers and penguins.

With public relations being under par, the SAB's main goal is to get the students involved and feeling like they are getting a rewarding experience as well as their money's worth.

However, some students believe that the Lottery is a gamble in more ways than one.

"I think SAB has gone too far," said Johnson Porter, a sophomore economics major. "I cannot believe we are condoning gambling basically, and I can't believe SAB is wasting so much money on something no one will participate in."

Others feel the lottery provides the excitement and thrill students have been looking for.

"I'm really excited about this. Everyone likes to win and even if all I get is a penguin, I'll take it," said Amelia Cordelius, a junior history major.

Whether students are wary of the idea or hopeful, the SAB hopes the Demon Lottery will be the winning ticket to recapturing the support and excitement of the students.

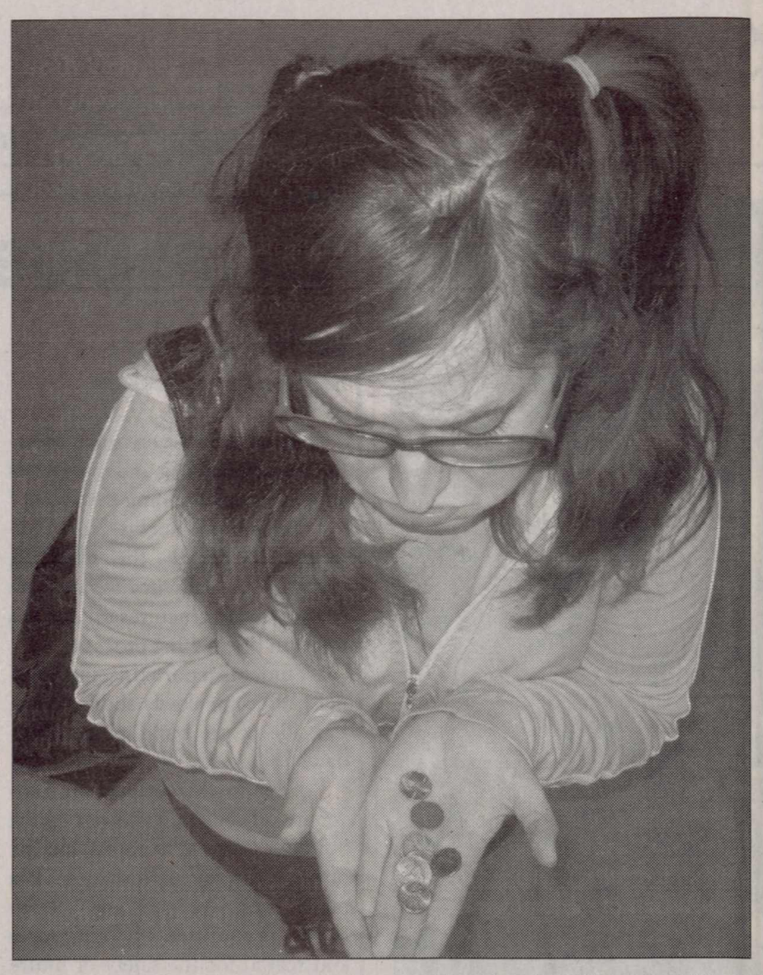


Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

Isabella shows her lack of financial funds due to the ongoing budget cuts at NSU this year.

Isabella forced to pay rent due to budget cuts

Sarah Cramer
The Ghostbuster

Due to the recent budget cuts, Isabella has been forced to join the workforce, finding employment as a door-greeter at the Natchitoches Wal-Mart.

"The school is no longer providing me with free housing," the school's ghost said. "I had no choice but to find a job."

The ancient apparition of NSU began job-hunting in early March after her savings had almost been completely depleted. She applied at several local businesses, but because of her reputation and ghostly appearance she had trouble finding work, she said.

"Most employers just don't feel comfortable hiring a ghost; they're afraid of the reaction of customers," Isabella said. "I'm so thankful for Wal-Mart."

The company prides itself on the diversity of its employees, and Isabella, who has been dead for decades, definitely brings her unique background to the staff.

One of her new managers, who requested to remain anonymous, expressed how impressed he is with his newest employee.

"Talk about a friendly ghost," he said. "I don't see how the university could do that to such a great gal, though I'm glad they did. She's one of our hardest workers."

Isabella explained that her reputation on campus has been questionable among the students, as she has been blamed for terrorizing students in their dorm rooms and setting fires to some of her previous residencies.

"Some of the students need to learn to take a joke. I get bored being cooped up in the same building day after day," she said.

The ghost chose not to comment on the fires.

Although there is a handful of students who have their doubts about this "friendly ghost," most students, including sophomore general studies major, Pat Mayonnaise, see right through Isabella.

"She's friendlier than most of the people I've met in this area," Mayonnaise said. "It brightens up my day to see her at the entrance of Wal-Mart every time I go buy groceries."

The two became friends after the ghost took up residence in Mayonnaise's Varnado Hall dorm room in the fall of 2007.

"I was new to Natchitoches and Isabella knew the ropes," Mayonnaise said.

Mayonnaise added how proud she is of her friend going out into the community in order to start a life of her own.

"With the exception of her transition from dorm to dorm, this is the first time [Isabella] has been out in the community," she said.

Isabella said that although this is a new experience, it's a good one.

"I have my frustrations," she said. "I don't think it's fair of the school to punish me for their budget cuts, however this is an adventure and I think this is start of something exciting."

April Fools!

All of the stories in this issue are part of an April Fools' Day prank.

The ads are real, though.

NSU vigilante unveiled

Tori Ladd
The Inquisitor

Many have probably heard of vigilante justice - the kind of justice where someone takes the law into his own hands. Most probably know a few of them, like Bruce Wayne and his alter ego, Batman.

Could NSU have its own Bruce Wayne by day and Batman by night?

NSU does.

He pushes a broom, fixes things and has been a part of NSU for more than two decades.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," he said.

"I was cleaning under the stadium after a football game. The year was 1985. The guy attacked this lady, and I was speechless and mortified by her screams at first. But when I saw the fear she had in her eyes I could not help myself. I threw down my broom and grabbed him by the shirt and threw him off of her. I tied him up to the call box by the stadium. That's where the campus police found him the next morning."

With wise eyes and a far-gone look, he stared at the fading "Welcome to NSU" sign under the stadium.

"That incident startled me, and I had hoped to never see anything like that on this campus again," he said.

NSU's vigilante unfortunately encountered another challenging situation.

"One evening, about two weeks later, this guy was walking home to his dorm when a group of out-of-control teens in an large jeep knocked him over into the bushes and trees that use be where the Louisiana School of Math, Science, Magic, Kickboxing, Alchemy, Zoology and the Arts parking lot is now. I helped him up and walked with him to the police station on campus. They said they couldn't do anything because the young man didn't know the license plate number of the jeep. It didn't even matter that he could describe it."

After that night, he decided to take matters into his own hands.

"After that night I would always stop and get a copy of the police blotter. It seems as if things had went peaceful again until a girl was mugged on campus one night, and over the next eight days 10 others fell victim. That was the night that I went from being Robert Hare the stadium janitor to BlacHawk the NSU vigilante," Hare said.



Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

The BlacHawk prepares for a night of crime prevention and daring actions on the NSU campus.

In a rare interview, Hare said his reasoning for getting involved was that he felt as though he could make the campus safer at night and bring justice to those who were victimized.

"I believe parents should have a peace of mind when they send their children away to school," Hare said.

"The children on this campus should be safe."

From then on, Hare recalls never leaving or going anywhere without his black mop – his weapon.

"I don't believe in weapons, but I do believe in justice," he said. "The handle of my mop can do just as much damage."

Hare, holding his black mop with a hawk carved on the end, put the mop down on the floor when asked what keeps him in the vigilante business.

"It's because NSU is dear to my heart," he says. "My mop and I have cleaned and taken care of this place since I was a young man. I guess I'm just attached."

With a booming laugh, Hare said he remembered the first time one of his rescuers was interviewed in an article in the paper.

"He came out of nowhere," Jessie Mae Sandersoniam said in the article. "He had on some sort of ridiculous outfit with something dark on his face making weird bird noises. No matter how terrible he looked and sounded, or how many times he pecked at me like a bird swinging a black mop around, I am thankful he saved me."

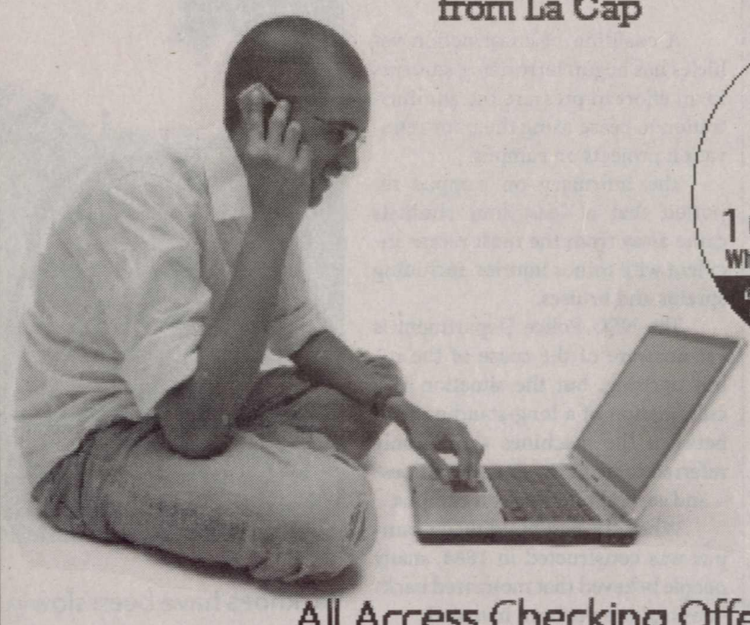
Over the years NSU has honored him by placing a giant bird feeder along with a huge bird bath by Chaplain's Lake and a bird feeder under the stadium.

"I mostly eat my food under the stadium," Hare said. "It's where I reside with the other birds on campus. But out of common courtesy, I always go over there and remove some of the bird food so it appears that I am eating it," Hare said. "The students get a kick out of that."

Hare plans to continue saving lives at NSU for as long as he can.

"I don't think I'll ever go bored with what I do, I enjoy it too much," Hare said. "I will keep eating that bird food and taking my bird baths until NSU does not need me anymore."

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April 1, 2009

Half the Battle: On censorship

Joe Cunningham
Obsolete



All we see on TV nowadays is "Hail our cyborg overlords" and "God bless the machines!" But, really, it's not all sunshine and rainbows.

Just the other day, I saw something wrong with the bigger picture.

[redacted]

Going back to what I said earlier, [redacted]

But, wait! There's more!

[redacted]

That's basically all I have to say. I hope I got my point across.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Hunter and Prey

Joe Cunningham
Investigative Reporter

Hello again, readers. After last week's failure to track down Frankenstein's monster, I decided to go after some slightly easier prey (primarily because my job is riding on success this week). I decided to go after Sasquatch.

Bigfoot. Yeti. Chupacabra. Sasquatch. This beast has several names, each depending on where you are in the world. "Bigfoot," the Sasquatch of the U.S. and Canada, is the creature we're searching for.

I started my hunt in the woods. Where? None of your business, but I was out in the woods hunting for Bigfoot. Get off my back. Anyway, my crew and I had just settled down for a picnic lunch of KFC chicken and mashed potatoes, when we heard the rustling of something big in that thicket behind us.

Dominic, our guide told us to be quiet, but Johnny Hatelite, who preferred Budweiser with his chicken, had gotten up to inspect. As it turns out, it wasn't Bigfoot, but a roving and extremely hungry mountain lion. At least, I can only assume it was hungry by the way it disemboweled Johnny. The smell of chicken grease is probably what lured it in.

We continued our journey.

Dominic showed us a massive footprint in the mud, and after studying it, determined our prey was nearby. Again, a rustling could be heard behind us. We didn't inspect.

We followed the muddy footprints and to a clearing. It was a very stereotypical clearing with beautiful green grass and a quiet little stream. It also contained our elusive beast.

Dominic pointed at it and told us it was the same monster that slaughtered his village. We nodded as we listened to the horrific story of how it killed men and women, and ate the remaining children. His powerful words moved us and we wanted, more than ever, to catch it.

Our party trapper, Steve Boomstick, grabbed his net and tranquilizer gun, and moved in silently… until he stepped on the twig.

The beast turned around, and in its gaping maw was the body of the same lion that took out Johnny. Retribution at last, we all thought, and Steve aimed his weapon, firing three times. Two tranqs in the neck, one in the chest.

Its breathing slowed, its eyes grew heavy. It came crashing to the ground, the dying lion still in its jaws.

We came to a startling discovery. This beast was too heavy to lift by ourselves.

We called in a rescue team. As the authorities arrived, we were then arrested for assaulting Roseanne Barr.

THE CURRENT SAUCE

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Still trying to figure out what exactly she is.

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Oh what deadly foes these dinosaurs be

Devon Drake
Write Column for Paper

Many moons ago, Krog get fired from General Wheel assembly plant. Without steady source of income, Krog not afford food.

Without food, Krog's children die. Krog decide to hunt.

Krog's father teach him to use spear and club, but Krog more interested in watching Pangea's Least Dead Velociraptor Tamer.

So, when Krog finally go hunting, he was in for a surprise. Oh, what deadly foes these dinosaurs!

Krog and his brother, Tagh, leave our cave before dawn, searching for food. Krog have spear. Tagh have club. In retrospect, probably should have switched.

When the sun hung above our heads, we found our prey. A big T-Rex could feed Krog's family for years! Also make Krog look good for potential employer.

We approach with clubs in hands, the T-Rex spots Tagh.

Tagh stands completely still, because great prophet, Dr. Alan Grant, said it be so. Great prophet, Dr. Alan Grant lied. Two seconds later, Tagh was greasy stain in forest.

After seeing brother disemboweled, Krog ran. In woods, Krog hear familiar sound. Krog know velociraptor coming.

Krog start running fast, but trip on log.

When Krog stand up, Krog face to face with raptor. Krog scared, but remembers the teachings of the great Alan Grant, if raptor stare at you, they attack from side.

Once again, Alan Grant lies. Raptor come running at Krog, teeth bared.

Krog step back and yell "pterodactyl punch!" Krog punch raptor right in face, knocking it out cold.

After this, Krog decide to quit hunting.

Krog return home to cave, wife and child hungry. Krog tell them story. Krog's wife leave him, take kids. Krog's not-wife sue for divorce. Pangea's Least Dead Divorce Attorney advise to sue for half of cave.

Krog remember to sign pre-nup in future marriage.

Divorce nasty. Also bloody. Not wife club Krog during hearing. Krog out for days.

Not wife get half cave. Krog move out. Live in woods. Fight velociraptors.

Another battle in court. Krog fight for custody of children. Judge ruled Krog not live in safe place for children. Not wife get full custody. Krog get no visitation.

Krog kill judge after hearing.

So, at the end of day, Krog hungry, Krog wife and children gone and Krog lose faith in religion while awaiting trial for killing judge.

Krog blames dinosaur.

Krog decide to create gravitomagnetic field in order to attract a comet. Krog kill all dinosaurs.

Ten ways to improve your date:

1. Spinach, garlic, onions, and jalapenos are romantic.
2. Challenge your date to some sort of primal eating contest.
3. Ensure her that she is better than your last girlfriend.
4. Provide examples (names and bra sizes) in number 3.
5. She cares about your encounters in Chuck E. Cheese's. Trust me.
6. Advise her to get penicillin before the date.
7. Get drunk. She needs to see you at your best and worst in order to judge you.
8. Honesty is the best policy. She does look fat in that outfit.
9. Hygiene is never a priority. Ever.
10. Deaths in the family are always a great icebreaker on the first date.

April Fools!

All of the stories in this issue are part of an April Fools' Day prank.

The ads are real, though.

NSU police redefine policies, campus laws

Joe Cunningham
Senior NSUPD Analyst

NSU police released a Natchitoches man from custody on Monday after they realized he was not a student.

Detective Shirley Homes, head of the NSUPD, personally apologized to the Jeffrey Manson, who was arrested for drunk driving on campus.

"He wasn't a student, so we couldn't detain him. Citizens of Natchitoches aren't in our jurisdiction," Homes said in a statement Tuesday.

The detainment of Manson was just one of the several mistakes some of the newer and more eager NSU police officers made in the last few weeks.

NSUPD has had to clarify their policies on multiple occasions, and some of the policies have raised speculation and controversy.

One report of officer over-eagerness was the arrest of a student who jaywalked across Caspari Street, in an effort to get from the Student Union to the A. A. Frederick's Auditorium before he was late for class.

His ticket was later dismissed because it was not a parking violation.

"We're happy that our officers are so eager to stop all wrongs on campus, but we're not a totalitarian state. We don't have the manpower to keep everyone safe all the time," Homes said.

However, NSUPD has been on top of almost half the students who enter the Kyser parking lot at the wrong exit and almost a third of the students who park illegally.

The increased revenue the fines bring in allowed them to get better equipment for surveying the campus, such as a pair of binoculars and a full tank of gas for the police cars.

"We're doing our best, and we think there are a lot of people who are better off because of what we do," officer Chip Lee Donuts said.

One such person would be Lisa Liverpool, a history professor at NSU.

"I'm glad they're getting those kids out of my parking spaces." Liverpool applauded the NSUPD announcement that they would no longer man the gate on Caspari Street, but instead would use facial recognition software.

The new software allows the gate station to scan the face of any drivers attempting to get on campus at night.

If their face appeared to fall roughly into the age group of 17 or so to maybe 30 or 35, the arm would rise and let them in.

Freeing officers from having to work the station allows for more men to be out on the streets, sleeping in their cars behind Kyser Hall and patrolling the faculty parking lot by Fournet for student vehicles.

However, some people feel that these policies aren't enough, or are just completely wrong.

Jessica Dimple, a freshman cult leadership major, is appalled her car accident with Jeffrey Manson has been ignored by the police.

"Like, my car was destroyed by that drunk guy and no one is doing anything?"

NSU police responded to Dimple's threat of calling her daddy by arresting her for parking in the grass along Chaplain's Lake.

Other dissenters to the NSUPD policies, like Chris Rambo, are calling for tougher policies.

"Why stop with parking violations? I say we persecute the students who loiter in front of campus buildings."

Rambo, a senior guerilla warfare major, has had meetings with Detective Homes cancelled because she was busy viewing pornographic Web sites on her computer.

BANG!!

Lady Demons bring boom to NSU

Andy Bullard
Oh God, Why?!

The spring semester can be packed with NSU sporting events such as baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, track and the one that unfortunately gets left out the most—tennis.

With most of its home matches being scheduled at the same time as other events, it is hard for the tennis team to get the fan support it wants and deserves.

However, fans getting in the stands isn't going to be a problem after head coach Patrick DuBois instates his new rule. Instead of using tennis balls, the NSU Lady Demons tennis team will be using live grenades.

"It's going to be hard to ignore loud explosions," DuBois said. "I know there is a small chance of injury, but at this point in time it's a risk we are willing to take. Our girls deserve to be seen, and if this is what we have to do, then so be it."

The athletic department has been mulling over the idea of using live grenades for at least three weeks now, and in the midst of the explosive debates on whether or not to use the grenades, associate athletic director William Broussard was quoted as saying, "We need a new tennis facility anyway, so their using live grenades will only be free demo."

With what is known as the "Live Grenade Act" having been passed, you can look forward to the new addition to the Jack Fisher Tennis Complex.

"I'm really glad that the Live Grenade Act was passed," Broussard said. "I have a feeling that the explosive addition to the tennis matches will not only make the players perform better but will definitely add to the fans in the stands. The only warning I would suggest to those coming out to watch the matches is maybe bring a flack jacket of some kind and make sure that your affairs are in order. With all the shrapnel flying around, you don't want to be too careless."

The "Live Grenade Act" comes at an important time to the NSU tennis team. Because of budget cuts, sporting teams have been slated to be erased, and unfortunately the tennis team was one of those teams chosen to be gone.

"This was done in the nick of time," DuBois said. "Had we not passed the Live Grenade Act, the tennis team as a whole may not be here, but then again one fault and it may not be here anyway."

Softball team gains air-headed outfielder

Andy Bullard
Level 74 Paladin

The budget cuts the university has been placing on the school have finally trickled their way down to the athletic department.

Due to the budget cuts, some of the sports teams' scholarships have been cut, and the NSU Lady Demons softball team was the first to lose scholarships.

The softball team had to trim only one scholarship off the top, but more may be on the way.

"This really hurts in the long run," head coach Donald Pickett said. "But with the athlete we just picked up to fill in, I have a feeling it will not only attract more fans but also not have a huge drop-off in production."

This new athlete the softball team has acquired is an outfielder that has had her ups and downs. The new outfielder is Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man.

Sources close to the matter have said that they have been scouting the Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man for a few weeks now, down at Al Harrington's Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man Emporium and Warehouse.

Do to the over shipment of Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Men, Al felt the need to pass the savings on to us.

"The sticking point for us was the fact not only could it play centerfield but it could do so much more," Pickett said. "The Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man is what we like to call a 5-tool player, and that's why we signed it."

Some of the trouble met by picking up the Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man was the fact that in its name it says he is a man and not a woman.

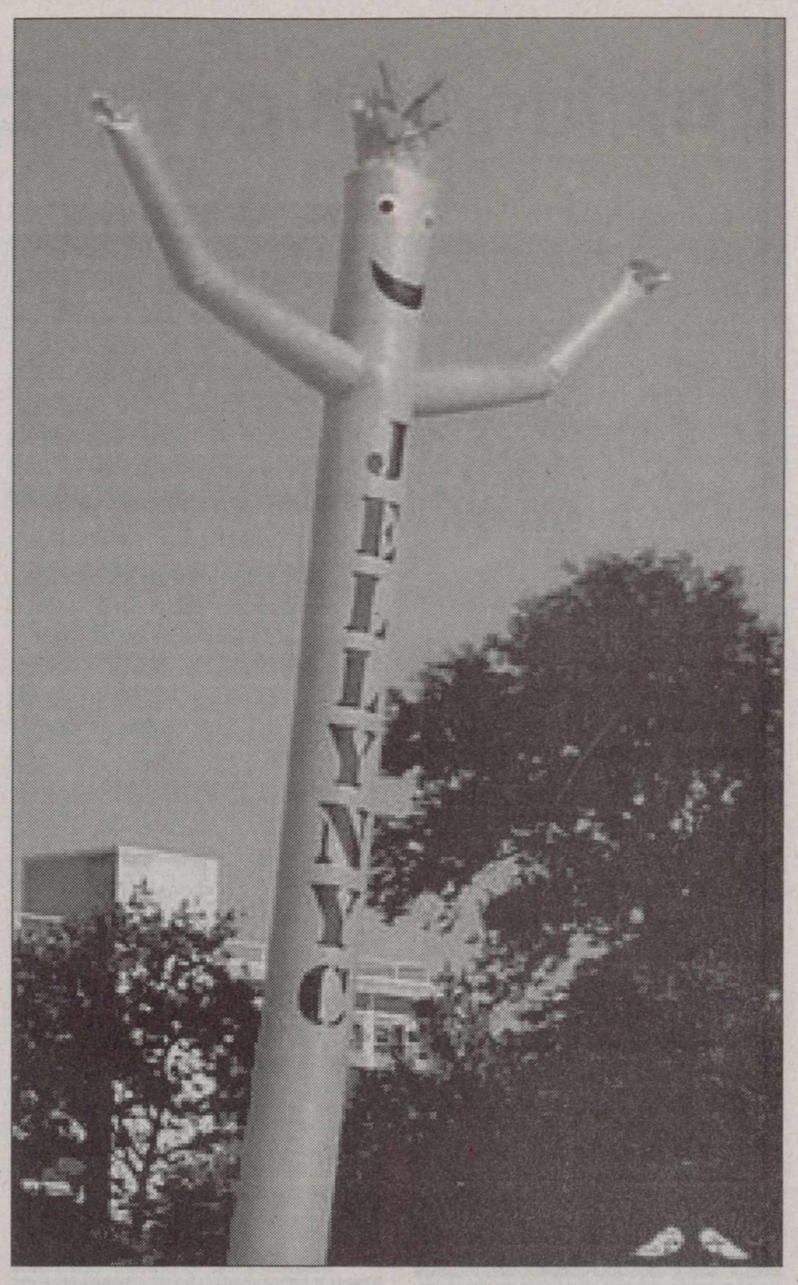
The softball team and the athletic department have been fighting for the right of the Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man to play because it is not quite a man and not quite a woman.

However, after much deliberation and background checks, the evidence was not great enough to keep the Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man from playing.

"In the rules it says it can't be a man," Sports Information Director Doug Ireland said. "The Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man is neither a man nor a woman so according to the rules it should be able to play, and it will."

Now that the gender problem has been cleared up, there's only one more little snag.

"The only problem we see in signing the Wacky Wavy Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man is finding an extension cord that will reach all the way out into centerfield, but it will bring a lot of energy to our squad," Pickett said.



Courtesy Photo
What the Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man might look like in centerfield for the Lady Demons.

Did you know? The Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man also played point guard for the 1932 Olympic Team that won the Gold medal in Winnsboro, La.

Happy April Fools from The Current Sauce



Photo by Joe Cunningham/The Current Sauce
Despite being taken with a 1,000,000 megapixel camera, Spiderman and his spidey senses ruined our photo, but anyway, he is our new head coach.

New head coach in sticky situation

Joe Cunningham
ahklsdbladhjsl;adsvi87

In a surprising move, the Demons decided to terminate the contract of the new head coach on Sunday, citing multiple infractions and "not being cool enough," according to Sports Information Director Douglas Scotland.

As of Tuesday night, hundreds of applications from across the Southland Conference were submitted to the athletic department at NSU.

"He wasn't upholding his end of the deal," Scotland said in a press conference Monday. "Along with coaching and recruiting, he was also responsible for organizing panty raids and e-mailing humorous but sometimes not work safe images to coaches and the athletic department as a whole."

Scotland went on to list other failures to comply with the contract, saying one of the worst offenses was that the new head coach actually had an intent to win games.

"Because of the lack of cats making funny faces, we have terminated the contract," Scotland concluded, before opening the floor to questions.

By Wednesday, after interviewing all day, the department selected a new head coach, who has already begun working on bringing in a completely new staff.

Pete Parker – the new Demon football head coach – found himself in a sticky situation, but according to players he has been slinging new ideas around the office.

Bryce Banner, the new defensive line coordinator, was available for a brief interview.

When asked about how he could deal with the strong offensive lines in the conference, he only replied that he would "smash" them and proceeded to jump through a nearby window.

Parker was thrilled to be able to hire Chuck Xavier as defensive coordinator.

"I really hoped I could grab him," Parker said. "He is excellent at reading opposing offenses."
Xavier was unavailable for comment.

On the offensive side of the Demon staff, coach Tony Stark has been called in. "Iron Man" Stark has been working to turn the Demon offense into a war machine, capable of decimating opposing defenses.

The players are responding well to Parker's new staff. Receiver Owen Terrells says he's happy for the first time in his career.

"Man, he [Parker] just kinda swung in here and took over," Terrells said. "We thought that skinny man was a joke, but he's turning things around."

Parker is thrilled to have been given such a warm response. Also a part-time photographer, he has been publishing pictures from practices in an effort to keep the community updated on what's going on.

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Wednesday, April 8, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 27

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Community celebrates 30th anniversary of the festival. p. 4

Half the Battle
Student compares weather alerts to the boy who cried wolf. p. 5

Tennis Triumphs
NSU tennis team wins two of the last matches. p. 6

Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Wingfield, Morrison win SGA presidential race

Some students excluded from voting process, election contested

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief

NSU students elected Kayla Wingfield and Mathew Morrison as president and vice president of the Student Government Association, but some students didn't have the opportunity to choose a candidate.

Jason Thibodeaux, who ran against Wingfield for SGA president, contested the election on behalf of his campaign on the grounds that some students were unable to vote.

The SGA amended its constitution in the fall 2008 semester to allow both full- and part-time students to vote.

According to this, both graduate and undergraduate students could vote, but some students were still turned away at the polls on April 1.

Those monitoring the polls were given a list containing the names of students who were eligible to vote based on previous standards.

This list did not contain part-time students who had not paid the SGA fee, even though the constitution permitted part-time students to vote.

Graduate student Gery Wood was among the students who were not allowed to vote on April 1, and he brought this issue to the forefront by speaking with multiple administrators at the university. Voting, he said, is an important habit that needs to be started early.

"Give up your vote now, you give up your vote for life," Wood said. "This is where it has to start."

Wood wanted to raise this issue because he was concerned about apathy on campus, and he wanted to encourage students to take part in the election.

"There's no excuse for giving up your right to vote," Wood said. "It's your chance to change something."

Thibodeaux and his running mate Chris Sanders brought this issue to the SGA election board, which ruled on April 2 that the election results stood and that this was out of its jurisdiction.

The election board deals only with the election code of the SGA, not with its constitution, current SGA President Cody Bourque said.

Sanders and Thibodeaux have carried the complaint to the NSU Supreme Court, which will discuss it on April 27. Thibodeaux said that the point is no longer about the election results, but about the students who weren't allowed to vote.

Wingfield and Morrison will take office on April 20, and the president-elect said she expects her term in office to be a very positive experience.

Morrison said they want to build positive relationships with the administration at the university.

Wingfield said they also want to focus on unifying the campus and getting students involved.

The SGA president-elect said her main concern is senate reform and organization.

"I feel that every senator has the potential to do something great," she said.

Wingfield said the issue of clarifying who can vote in the elections is something she and the SGA will focus on right from the start.

"[The contestation] has given me something else to tackle with this administration," Wingfield said about defining voter eligibility on campus.

She said that she wants to make sure students are able to vote in the next election.

"If you're on campus at any time, what we do affects you," she said.

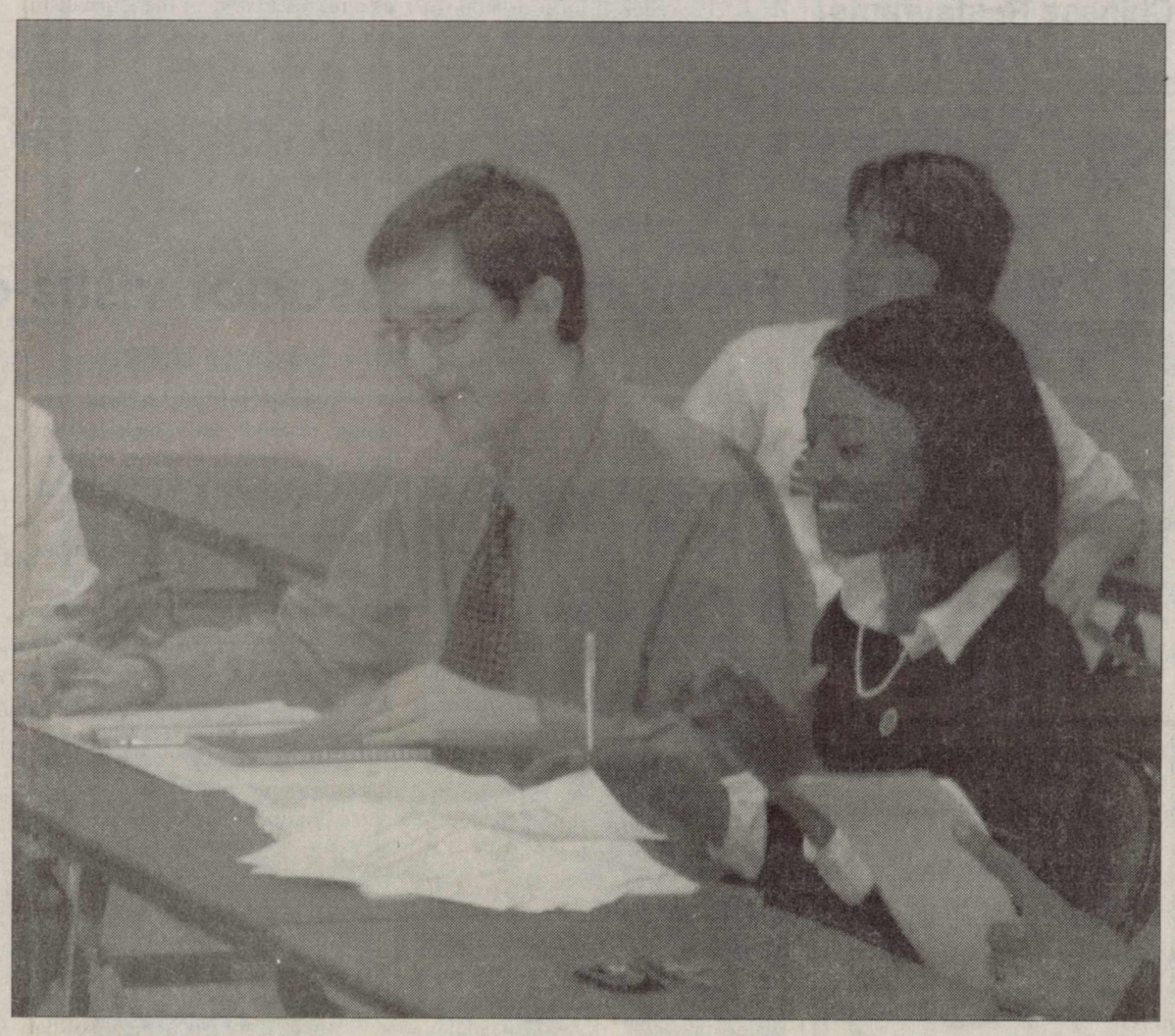


Photo by Kelli Fontenot /The Current Sauce

Kayla Wingfield and Mathew Morrison were elected on April 1 to be the Student Government Association president and vice president, respectively.

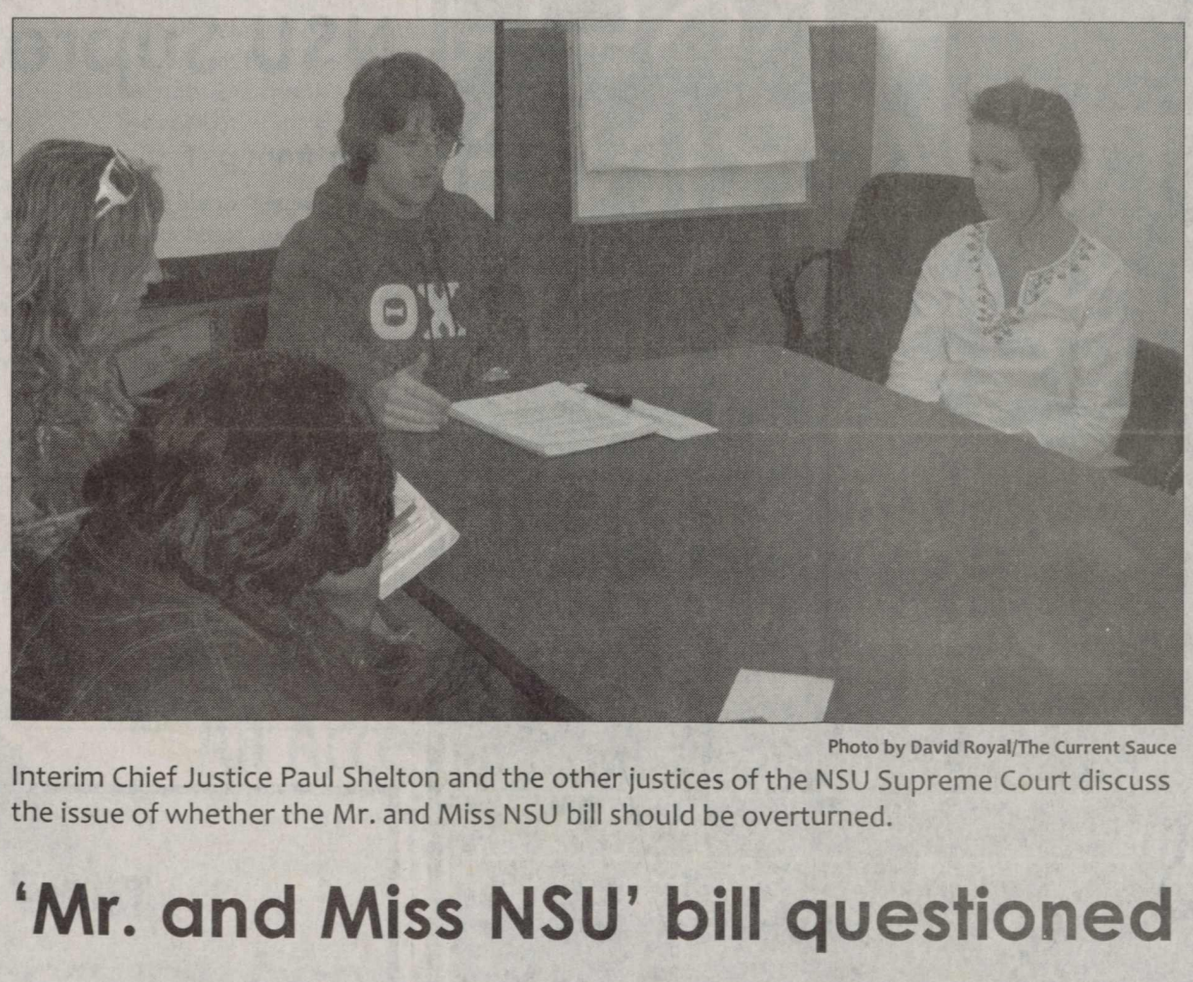


Photo by David Royal/The Current Sauce

Interim Chief Justice Paul Shelton and the other justices of the NSU Supreme Court discuss the issue of whether the Mr. and Miss NSU bill should be overturned.

'Mr. and Miss NSU' bill questioned

David Royal
News Editor

The NSU Supreme Court voted Monday on whether to overturn the Student Government Association's recent bill that raised the GPA requirement for Mr. and Miss NSU candidates.

The issue, which Speaker of the Senate Tim Gattie brought to the court's attention, was if the senate conducted the vote on the bill correctly.

After deliberation, the court ruled unanimously that the bill should not be overturned.

Gattie said he wished to have the bill overturned because the vote conducted that night did not follow the parliamentary procedure used by the SGA, which is Robert's Rules of Order.

Gattie explained that according to Robert's Rules of Order, any votes of abstention are to only be counted toward meeting quorum.

During the vote for the Mr. and Miss NSU bill, however, SGA Vice President Mark Daniels, who was serving in Gattie's place that night as Speaker of the Senate, counted the abstentions toward the majority.

Because the majority was in favor of the bill, the abstentions gave the vote the two-thirds decision needed to pass the bill.

At the Supreme Court's meeting, SGA Treasurer Lauren Michel said, however, that for as long as she can remember, the SGA has always counted abstentions in this manner.

She added that she thought that if the bill in question was deemed unconstitutional and overturned because of the voting procedure, then it only makes sense for all the other bills that the SGA passed using the same method to be addressed.

Because of this, Michel recommended that instead of overturning the Mr. and Miss NSU bill, the court should look into establishing a set way for abstentions to be counted.

After hearing both arguments from Gattie and Michel, the Supreme Court held a private vote.

Interim Chief Justice Paul Shelton said the five justices present unanimously agreed that Robert's Rules of Order had been violated, but decided that the bill would not be overturned.

Instead, the court decided that from now on the senate must conduct votes under the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order.

Shelton said the court agreed with Michel's argument.

Cont. on p. 2

NSU expected to lose $7.2M

ULS announces next year's cuts

David Royal
News Editor

The Louisiana Board of Regents announced that the University of Louisiana System will be receiving a cut of about $67 million for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

NSU President Randall J. Webb explained that this means the university will be experiencing a cut of $7.2 million.

Although NSU officials were informed last month to prepare for a worst-case scenario of about $12.5 million, or a 28 percent cut, Webb said $7.2 million still creates a dire situation.

"It's hard to even contemplate the possible impact of these cuts," Webb said.

Taking into account the original $2.1 million that Gov. Bobby Jindal cut this semester, Webb said it is staggering to consider that the university has been cut nearly $10 million in a span of less than 12 months.

In addition to the well-publicized budget cuts, Webb said many have not been informed or often forget that NSU will also have to cover the costs of some unfunded mandates.

Webb said an example of this would be a contribution to the state's retirement system.

This cost will amount to $1.2 million, Webb said.

The Board of Regents criteria for assessing the amount to cut was based on each higher education system's performance, Webb said.

The ULS's cut of $67 million is the second highest behind the Louisiana State University System's cut of $102 million.

The lowest cut of $16 million goes to the Southern University System, according to a press release from the Board of Regents.

Webb explained that the next step for NSU is to present its revised budget plan to the Board of Regents on April 14.

Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen reminded all the officials of Louisiana's education systems that although this is a tough time for everyone, they need to keep in mind that that their budget plans should include long-term solutions, not just short-term, according to the Board of Regents' press release.

"The issues we face may extend out at least two, if not three years," said Clausen.

"Unless the economic conditions change for the better, higher education in Louisiana will be required to respond to a $440 million shortfall by 2012."

Clausen said it will be the long-term priorities of higher education that will ultimately alleviate the solution.

Webb said that the plan NSU officials will send next week will remain similar to the one originally formed about a month ago, which consists of reducing the university's operating costs.

He added that he thinks the proposed plan will still provide the least noticeable changes for the students.

The area receiving the most significant cuts will still be adjunct professors and other NSU employees, Webb said.

Webb said, however, depending on the future actions of Jindal, NSU's situation could still improve.

"This is really a dynamic situation we're in, " Webb said.

"Something could happen within the next few weeks and completely turn things upside down."

David Royal
News Editor
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Journalism department enters joint effort with BPCC

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor

Northwestern State University and Bossier Parish Community College came a little closer after signing an agreement that makes it easier for students to transfer into the university's journalism department.

At a press conference on Monday, Chancellor Tom Carleton of BPCC and NSU President Randall J. Webb signed their latest Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

According to the contract, the "2+2 program" between the institutions allows students at BPCC to complete their requirements for an Associate of Applied Science in Telecommunications with a broadcast concentration to transfer all credits, in full, to NSU, where they can complete the remaining curriculum requirements to earn a bachelor's degree in journalism.

Paula Furr, who also attended as a representative of the journalism department, was thrilled with the signing, as it comes at a time when the department is going over their curriculum and looking to add more classes.

One of the proposed ideas is to add a few more specialized online classes, but with budget cuts around the university, nothing is currently set in stone.

Another major benefit will be an increase in students in the department.

The small number of students in the program is a problem Furr mentioned at one of several meetings she has had with students and faculty in the department for the last week.

The contract arises from a concern students had about transferring to a four-year college and being able to allow the credits they earned at BPCC to count.

The program benefits both schools by allowing the BPCC credits to count at NSU and by bringing students to NSU.

Students attending BPCC planning to transfer to NSU's journalism program are required to file an intent to transfer with NSU and are advised to pick up an English or American literature class and social science and humanities electives in their telecommunication degrees.

Carleton, who is rounding up his last year as chancellor of BPCC, has been working alongside NSU for more than a decade.

"I'm hoping my successor will continue to build this bridge with Northwestern," Carleton said after the official signing.

Webb, who has been working with Carleton, is excited the agreement came to fruition, mentioning a similar agreement with the NSU nursing program.

"I believe this is the sixth MOU we've signed with BPCC," Webb announced during his speech at the press conference, hinting at more to come.

French ambassador visits community

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

A representative from the NSU Creole Heritage Center was among a select group invited to meet with the French ambassador to the United States in Opelousas on March 20.

Executive director Janet Ravare-Colson attended a reception, along with various community leaders in Louisiana, including teachers and organization heads.

Here she was given the opportunity to meet Pierre Vimont, who was appointed ambassador on August 1, 2007.

"He was very easy to talk to," Colson said. "He is a very cordial person."

Colson received a call from Aude Ghespière, the consulate general of France in New Orleans's cultural service representative, inviting her to attend the reception honoring Vimont's visit during "le mois de la Francophonie," the month-long celebration of the French language.

"[Ghespière] said she had been doing research on Creole culture and organizations involved, and she found us through our Web site," Colson said

The Center received funding from a grant from the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative of the National Park Service to allow them to carry out a project to document and preserve the Creole language, Colson said.

"That grant supports [us] making community visits, talking to people about documenting the language and getting feedback from them on ways they would like to see it preserved and taught."

At the reception, Colson presented this project to Vimont and her fellow guests.

"[It was] for his benefit, so that it would give him an opportunity to learn about the different organizations and what they're doing," Colson said.

The presentations were not left to the members of the community.

The ambassador also spoke to the group.

"He was very glad to come to Opelousas," Colson said. "He was very impressed with the language that was being used and trying to be perpetuated in Louisiana and that he was anxious to learn about the different projects and programs we're involved [in]."

Colson added that he spoke in both French and English.

"A lot of people at the luncheon were French speakers, so we communicated on both levels – some in French, some in English," she said.

Upon meeting the ambassador, Colson presented Vimont with several gifts representing the Center, as well as a bottle of Creole wine.

Ghespière and Consulate General, Oliver Brochenin, are planning to visit the Center next month to further discuss the project.

"They wanted to see if there's a way they could help," Colson said.

"I'm not quite sure what that means yet, but it's encouraging."

100th anniversary of the Potpourri yearbook

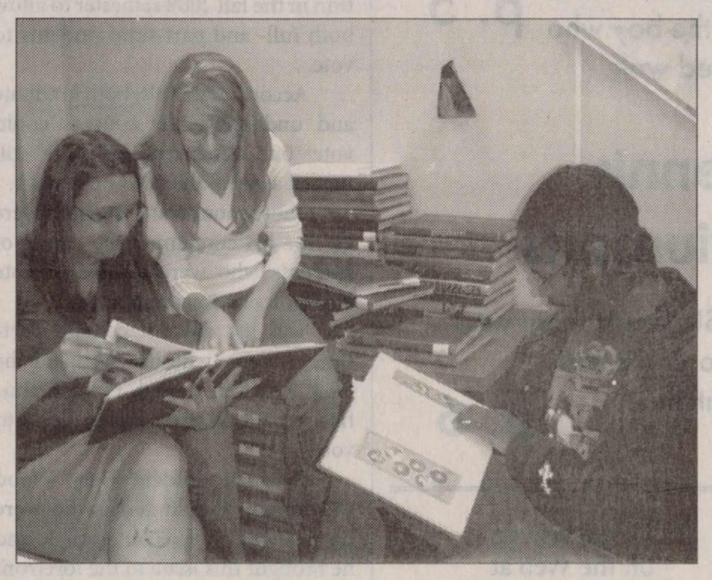


Photo by Leigh Guidry/The Current Sauce

The Potpourri, NSU's yearbook, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year with a special edition and a banquet on May 9. Past Potpourri editors and staffs are invited to the celebration as well as others who can attend. Tickets are $25 at the NSU Alumni Foundation.

NSU Supreme Court

Cont. from p. 1

"Because it would open the door to having to readdress every bill in similar fashion, we decided the smartest idea would be to not overturn [the bill]" Shelton said.

Gattie said after the meeting that although he wanted the bill to be overturned, he has no hard feelings toward the court.

"I understand and appreciate the ruling of the court," Gattie said.

The Supreme Court had also planned on Monday to look into the issue of who is eligible to vote in student elections, but ran out of time.

As a result, Shelton said the court will meet April 27 to deliberate.

Shelton said he and the justices will decide whether it is the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or senate to handle the issue of voter eligibility.

If they rule that it is in the court's jurisdiction, then the justices will look into making clearer guidelines stating which students can vote.

Shelton said this deliberation will pertain primarily to part-time students because their voting policy could be interpreted in different ways.

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4:45 p.m., 6:45 p.m.
8:45 p.m.

"Fast & Furious"
Rated PG-13
1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.
7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"Monsters vs. Aliens"
Rated PG
12:45 p.m., 2:45 p.m.
4:45 p.m., 7 p.m.

"The Haunting in Connecticut"
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1 p.m., 4 p.m.
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Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu
April 8, 2009

Volcano scholar speaks at 22nd Annual Research Day

Shantell Huricks
Sauce Reporter

A professor of physical volcanology from Rome heated things up at the 22nd Annual Research Day ceremony Thursday with his lecture on Mount Vesuvius.

Many students, faculty members and Natchitoches citizens gathered in Lee H. Nelson Hall, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, to learn more about the history of the volcano located in Naples, Italy.

This year, the event had a new format. In past years, students and faculty gave lectures and presented their extensive research studies in the Friedman Student Union on Research Day.

As reported by The Current Sauce in February, Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Priscilla Kilcrease said presenters would post their research online – in the form of Word documents, videos and PowerPoint presentations – instead.

The change was implemented mainly to save money due to budget cuts, Kilcrease said.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs planned to designate about $4,000 to fund Scandone's appearance, according to the memorandum Kilcrease sent out to those assisting with Research Day in February.

Scandone's topic for his PowerPoint presentation was "Mount Vesuvius Man and Environment between Heaven and Hell."

In the past, some students were awarded bonus points in certain classes for going to Research Day. However, because of the new structure of this year's Research Day ceremony, the students who attended had personal reasons for attending Scandone's lecture.

Erin Mayfield, a freshman Louisiana Scholars' College student, wanted to go because they had been discussing the topic in class.

Mayfield said she thought some of the ideas expressed in the presentation were intriguing.

"My favorite part was when he was talking about the people in casts," she said. "I wonder what's in them, but I really don't want to know."

Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts student, Alissa LaBat, though, wasn't familiar with the topic.

She had been to Italy and had taken Latin classes, so she wanted to attend the presentation.

"The Pompeii thing was interesting," she said.

During the presentation, Scandone explained in detail what the lives of the people of Pompeii were really like.

Scandone has been studying volcanoes for 35 years.

He began as a technical scientist at Osservatorio Vescuviano in Italy from 1972 until 1987. From there, he went on to teach at the University of Naples and stayed there eight years. Now he is the professor of physical volcanology at the University of Roma Tre in Rome, according to the NSU News Bureau.

Scandone also spoke on the topic, "Vesuvian Archaeology" at the Louisiana Scholars' College on March 31. He discussed the archeological investigations on the sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, which were destroyed by Mount Vesuvius.

Students prepare for vacation

Week-long spring break equals relaxation

Amanda Duncil
Sauce Reporter

Spring break is notorious for being a time for excessive partying.

In a recent article titled "Alcohol-soaked Spring Break Lures Students Abroad," USA Today claimed that many students at the college level go abroad during spring break because they have easier access to alcohol.

Despite the stereotype, spring break is a popular time for relaxation, catching up with friends and family, working on homework and getting a head start on time consuming assignments.

Some students, such as sophomore English major Katie Craft, will be participating in volunteer work over the break.

"To me this is much more important," Craft said. "It will be fun reaching out to people."

Sophomore Louisiana Scholars' College student Yaser Elqutub will be traveling to Missouri, Oklahoma and Dallas to visit relatives.

"I would rather spend [the break] with family," Elqutub said.

With the economic crisis, it may be more difficult for those who want to travel during the break.

Fortunately, some popular spring break locations are still within reach.

About.com ranks Panama City, Fla., Miami and South Padre Island, Texas, among the 10 hot spots for spring break travel.

This year may see a decline in visitation to some of the most popular spring break destinations in Mexico such as Cancun, Acapulco and Rosarito Beach.

Newspaper headlines over the past few months suggest destinations in Mexico might be dangerous places for spring breakers to travel.

Ongoing drug wars that have already claimed the lives of several thousand people have been cause for travel concern since February, according to the U.S. Department of State.

Several responses have been issued from the Tourism Board in Mexico encouraging people to continue to travel to Mexico.

Officials say only few and isolated countries within the entire country are affected by the drug wars.

Despite the controversy, it's always a good idea to be cautious when travelling.

Spring events at NSU



Photo by Tori Ladd/The Current Sauce

NSU students enjoy the Spring Fling Carnival near Kyser Hall on Monday, Mar. 30.



Photo by Kelli Fontenot/The Current Sauce

Visit thecurrensauce.com for photos of the art shows in the Hanchey Art Gallery.

Fast Fact

Biggest Job Losses since 1945, WWII

- Total job losses have reached 2.6 million nationwide - the highest level in more than six decades.
- A U.S. Labor Department jobs report Friday showed the country has lost 524,000 jobs in
- December and 1.9 million in the year's final four months.
- The steep annual drop in jobs marked the highest yearly job-loss total since 1945, the year in which World War II ended.
- The total number of unemployed Americans rose by 632,000 to 11.1 million.

Source: CNNMoney.com

Reminder:

Financial Aid Priority Deadline at NSU is May 1, 2009.

File your FAFSA and NSU Financial Aid forms before May 1.

Be sure that you list NSU on the FAFSA. NSU's federal school code is 002021.

Infortmation from NSU Financial

Greek Week 2009

Wednesday: "Amazing Race" 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Penny wars "Battle of the Sexes" 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Blood Drive 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Friedman Student Union Thursday: "Top Chef" 11am to 2pm Greek Awards "The Oscars"

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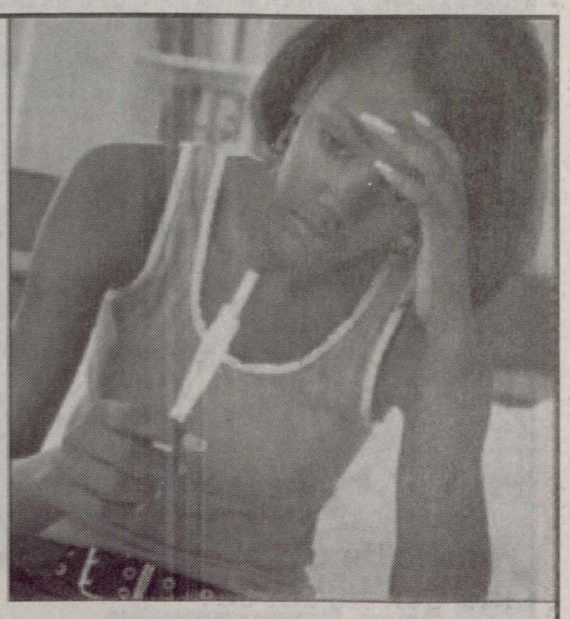
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Tori Ladd
Life Editor
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April 8, 2009

'Colorful' folklife festival turns 30



Photo by Gery Woods/The Current Sauce

At the Folk Festival, experts demonstrate hand-spinning yards of wool to make thread.

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Full of fun, friendship, life and culture, Louisiana is the South's own melting pot.

The Louisiana Folklife Center is making plans for its annual Folk Festival – which takes place in July.

"I think that is why students don't attend," Shane Rasmussen, the coordinator of the Louisiana Folklife Center, said. "They are either home for the summer or not aware of it."

Rasmussen said the festival will be a great opportunity for students to serve their university as volunteers.

Volunteers will also receive free admission.

July is a popular festival month, Rasmussen said.

"During our festival time we are expecting 5,000 people, and we are not worried about being hot because Prather is air conditioned," Rasmussen said. "This will be our 30th Folk Festival this year."

The festival will last two days, from July 17-18.

This year's theme and focus is "New Populations in Louisiana."

The highlight of populations will be the Vietnamese in the New Orleans area, as well as different Asian cultures that have settled in Louisiana.

Currently there are 50,209 people of Asian descent who live in Louisiana, according to www.siegmann.louisiana.org.

"We will even have some Laotian people from Laos," Rasmussen said.

There are a lot of things to expect at the Folklife Festival.

There will be Vietnamese lion dancing, Taiko drummers, Japanese drummers and Filipino dancers.

The festival will also offer a variety of foods from different cultures that have settled across Louisiana.

H. F. Gregory coordinates the crafting section and usually brings in about 40 artists.

This year the festival will include demonstrations of Thai traditions, Indian Rangoli sand painting and Japanese flower arranging.

The headlining entertainer for this year will be fiddler Curry Perkins, as well as Billy and Bobbye Keyes who give Cajun dance lessons.

The Louisiana Folklife Center will also host the 2009 Louisiana State Fiddle Championship.

People can also expect local entertainers such as Hardrrick Rivers to sing the blues, Back Porch Band for traditional folk music and Michael Boicourt will be spinning and weaving fabrics.

John Oswald Colson will be demonstrating how to make filé, while some women from the Republic of the Philippines teach people how to play Mah Jongg.

"It is going to be a colorful festival," Rasmussen said.

The Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival has been in effect since 1980 and is a four-time winner of the "Top 20 Events in the Southeast" Award given by the Southeast Tourism Society.

From 1980 to 1982 the Folk Festival was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Louisiana Division of the Arts, according the Folklife Center Web site.

It was Archie Green – former director of the Folklife Center – suggested that each year the festival focus on a new aspect of Louisiana culture including occupation, ethnic and regional folklore, according the Folklife Center Web site.

More information about the Folk Festival is available in 213 Kyser Hall.



Photo by Gery Woods/The Current Sauce

Folk Festival McTeggart Irish Dancers of Louisiana perform to an upbeat song.

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April 8, 2009

Be Frank: Same sex, same rights

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



Picture this.

You take your date out for a romantic evening. You pull out all the stops. New shirt, clean car, the Mariner's.

But then while you are enjoying a romantic stroll down the riverfront, a group of children comes by and throws sticks at you, calls you names and belittles you because they don't think you two should be together.

Everyone preaches about how far America has come throughout history. But what people don't realize is that as a country, we still have much further to go.

Yes, for the most part we no longer discriminate against race or religion or sex. No, instead we found a new form of discrimination: sexual orientation.

It is slowly becoming more socially acceptable for couples of mixed heritage or races to join in matrimony.

It took time, but a black man can now wed his white bride, and most people won't call them names. It still happens, but not as much.

But a man cannot kiss a man without the room growing quiet because someone's god or church says it is not OK.

States are starting to realize this hypocrisy, but not quickly enough.

Iowa joined Massachusetts and Connecticut with a unanimous ruling on April 3 finding the same-sex marriage ban to be unconstitutional, according to a CNN article published April 3, "Iowa Gay Marriage Ban Unconstitutional."

But it shouldn't take a state Supreme Court ruling to justify a couple's desire for matrimony.

A man shouldn't fear walking down the street with the man he likes – or loves – because society deems it wrong.

America wants to separate church and state only when it best fits the needs of the religious individuals.

But for the religious people, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone," John 8:7.

Each sin is equal. No one is telling you that you cannot marry the person of your dreams because someone else has a moral dilemma with it, as long as that person is of the opposite sex.

But the thing is, it isn't anyone else's business whom you marry. That is between you, your future spouse and your god, if you so choose.

America preaches how free we are. Men and women die daily to ensure our freedom.

But some people want to demean others because those choices interfere with their personal moral standings.

The Declaration of Independence guarantees us three inalienable rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It doesn't say that any one person can decide who gets those rights. We all get them.

If a man makes another man happy, or woman makes another woman happy, then it is not the government's place to deny them that happiness.

A gay couple is not causing any harm to any other individual.

The couple's marital bond won't interfere with anyone else's path to heaven.

It should not be unconstitutional for same-sex couples to marry. And it should not be a battle left for the individual states.

It is a decision that should be made by our U.S. Supreme Court.

A couple's marriage should be recognized despite their geography.

But because some states choose to be closed-minded, not everyone's marital bond is recognized. But it needs to be.

No one should be made to feel less than American, less than equal, less than anyone else because people are closed-minded.

But because America is not as free as it claims to be, because people choose to force their religious views on everyone, people are not equal.

We have "overcome" race, religious and sex discrimination.

It is about time that as a country we overcome our newest form of discrimination and allow everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, to marry the person of his or her tomorrow.



Photo Illustration by Bethany Frank/The Current Sauce

Half the Battle: Crying wolf

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



If you're like me, you've been awaiting the apocalypse for two weeks, thanks to those handy dandy sirens the city of Natchitoches and Northwestern State University installed.

I, for one, recall the story of the boy who cried wolf. For those of you who may have missed it, some little tyke thought it would be cute to shout "WOLF" while guarding a flock of sheep.

The people of the village would rush to him and see no wolf. They were not too happy with the kid. When there really was a wolf, no one came.

Now, because my parents didn't want to warp my fragile mind, the story ended with the wolf approaching the boy.

It took the less-sensitive children at school to alert me to the fact that the boy died at the hands…er, jaws of the wolf.

That was the day my innocence died.

Anyway, the sirens are a lot like that dead little boy. You see, the first time I heard them, I ducked under a table and put my hands over my head. I had seen the filmstrips from the 1950s that showed kids what to do during a nuclear attack. It kinda stuck with me.

And, since those sirens in the films sound like the ones we have today, I got confused. Other people were confused, too, considering I was working at the WRAC at the time. They wondered why I had disappeared under the desk.

The storms raged and the winds blew, and we knew the end was near. Someone walked outside and was immediately blown away into the night. We found him three days later, stuck in a tree like Blanket from "The Brave Little Toaster."

The next day, though, the alarms went off again. "Severe thunderstorm warning. Seek shelter immediately," it screamed.

I walked outside and watched the skies. I saw three raindrops and a leaf blow by. We got a scary voice to shout at us… for this?

That Friday, there were a few clouds in the sky and a breeze. This seemed to set the National Weather Service into overdrive, and we got another alarm… but I saw no students flinch at the alarms or seek shelter.

Is this what we've come to? We have a system to overreact to all manner of weather "emergencies"? This will end well.

Our students - and the citizens of the city of Natchitoches in general - just don't care anymore.

The novelty of an air-raid siren seems to be wearing thin, in two weeks no less.

I've lived here for almost 21 years, and I can tell you what we used to do when it was storming. We'd stay inside and play Nintendo and wait for the rain to slack up a little, then go push each other into the overflowing ditches in the yard. Life was great.

Now, we have to go sit in the halls and cross our arms, waiting for the breeze to stop blowing the wrong way so that you can come out of the house and into the sunshine.

No, thanks. I'll brave the wrath of the one cloud in the sky.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Obama Overseas

Ruth Wisher
Guest Columnist



When President Barack Obama was campaigning for office he ran his campaign on the promise of "change we can believe in."

Now call me crazy, but is the change we want for our president to insult us in Europe?

Because that is exactly what Obama did when visiting Europe last week. When in Strasbourg, Obama called the United States "arrogant."

Let me just say that if George Bush had done that, he would have never lived it down, but somehow when Obama says it, it just gets pushed under the rug.

This is our president, the man who swore to protect us and the man who has full control of our country, and he is going to other countries and making us look bad to them. I do not understand how this is OK and acceptable.

I said that I hoped Obama would prove to be a good president, but so far he has done nothing to show that his interest is what is best for America. Am I overreacting? No, I do not think so.

The reason I am talking about this is because this is our president. This is the man that is supposed to make America look good, not go and talk about us like we are the worst thing that ever happened to this world.

This is exactly one of the reasons I voted against Obama.

When he was running for president and he would not put his hand on his heart for the pledge, I could tell that something was not right with this man's patriotism, and this recent trip to Europe just confirmed my beliefs.

Maybe Obama should spend a little bit more time in America instead of Europe and come through with all those "great" things he promised America that he so far has yet to accomplish.

One more point I will say as an American, so what if we are the best? Did President Obama forget that we are the most prosperous nation in the world?

I would not call America "arrogant," but I would say that we have every right to feel good about ourselves.

Obama should seek the approval of the American people and not the applause of those who are notoriously known to hate America's prosperity.

New way to gauge intoxication:

Student suggests four tests to determine drunkenness

Andrew Bordelon
Guest Columnist



Merriam-Webster defines drunk as "having the faculties impaired by alcohol" or "having a level of alcohol in the blood that exceeds a maximum prescribed by law" (legally drunk).

Realistic test groups have proven otherwise.

There are four tests of a person reaching the state of being drunk: motor skills, vocal proficiency, sexual performance and consciousness. In many cases the gradual fading of those traits goes in that order.

Factors that aid in that fading include, but are not limited to, the number and type of drinks, speed of drinking and a person's tolerance.

As a person drinks more, he will soon lose motor skills. Experienced drinkers and high school experimenters can attest to the gradual stumbling and loss of balance that becomes one of the first signs of being drunk.

It is in this first state that a person's ability to perform simple tasks, such as driving a car, riding a bike or simply walking, are impaired.

Responsible people will state how one should be closely watched in this state. Realistic people will admit how hilarious it is to watch their friends try to perform basic tasks in this altered state of mind.

However, we must not consider a person fully intoxicated at this stage just yet. We still have three tests that are used to determine a person's level of being drunk.

As the night progresses, the next factor that slowly fades away is vocal proficiency.

We've all been to the point where we stumble a bit, laugh and maybe go home or to a friend's house and go to sleep. But for those who continue to drink, as you lose your ability to walk straight you also lose your ability to speak clearly.

You and your friends might understand every word that you say to each other, but from an outsider's perspective you make about as much sense as "freedom fries".

At this point, you might be giving the appearance of the drunken fool.

However, some drinkers might be lucky enough to experience the next sign, and unfortunate enough to experience its shame.

I consider it somewhat of a skill to be able to drink enough that you can not only not walk straight but also can't even tell a person your name, and still be able to go home with someone.

I am, of course, talking about those fortunate few who go home with members of the opposite sex with the intention of pleasurable sexual relations, even if just for one night.

There is usually more humor than pleasure in some cases, and it can be a bit disappointing if you fail the next test, sexual performance.

It can be especially interesting when both parties are equally drunk, but that's another story.

Now, there are those heavy drinking gin lovers who become the Energizer Bunny in bed, but with too much beer, or enough whiskey for that matter, a person's ability to satisfy will slowly fade.

One can prolong this reality with several different methods of foreplay, but eventually he must accept the truth and hope that his partner is courteous enough to not judge him.

After a night that has resulted in losing your balance, the ability to speak clearly and your confidence in the bedroom, drinkers are near the point of exhaustion.

There are those who enjoy a simple cuddle after sex. I say if you have the consciousness and energy to do so, that deserves a tip of the hat. At this point in the night, I will even admit that I am drunk.

People have argued about when they have had too much to drink over the ages. So for those who dare to brave the experience of college, they will surely experience these events firsthand.

Some say that we should realize that we're in college to go to school.

However, it is the balance of the educational and social aspect of college that will benefit you the most.

Student displeased with April Fools' lampoon edition

Letter to the Editor:

I have to say I was pretty mad with the last issue of the Current Sauce. I'm all for joking around, especially on April Fool's Day, but this was ridiculous! With all the budget cuts, people getting fired nationwide, an ongoing economic crisis that dwarves the great depression, and so little money at NSU that the janitorial staff can't even clean the classrooms, NSU has enough funding to run an entire volume of the school paper as a PRACTICAL JOKE?!

I'm an alumnus of NSU and I returned to NSU to pursue a second Bachelor's degree. I've always been proud to call NSU my University. I've also never been one to criticize the student paper. I'm open minded and enjoy reading (usually). This time, however, I believe the paper has crossed the line. We've had to cut budget in many different departments. Our Band has no money to go anywhere. Our Men's Chorus has had to do fundraisers to raise money for a touring trip. Our Chamber Choir had to call in favors just to be able to tour Monroe and Ruston! AND THOSE ARE THE CUTS ONLY AFFECTING CAPA!

I'm sure that you have felt the affects of the budget cuts as well--not enough scholarship money to go around. Limits to the number of papers you can print. Yet even in these dire times, you find you have funds enough to print an entire issue of the paper as a practical joke?

I, for one, cannot tolerate this blatent lack of respect for the student body and student funding! I believe you owe the student body an apology for wasting our fees on such pointless drivel that was published last week. Don't be surprised to be addressed by the Alumni Association, either, because I'm sure I'm not the only Alumnus who is insensed by your actions.

Whether you print this letter or not, please remember this: I will gladly support you and your staff--but not when you waste my funds.

Sincerely,
Jamie Green

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April 8, 2009

Late inning rallies thrust Demons past Colonels

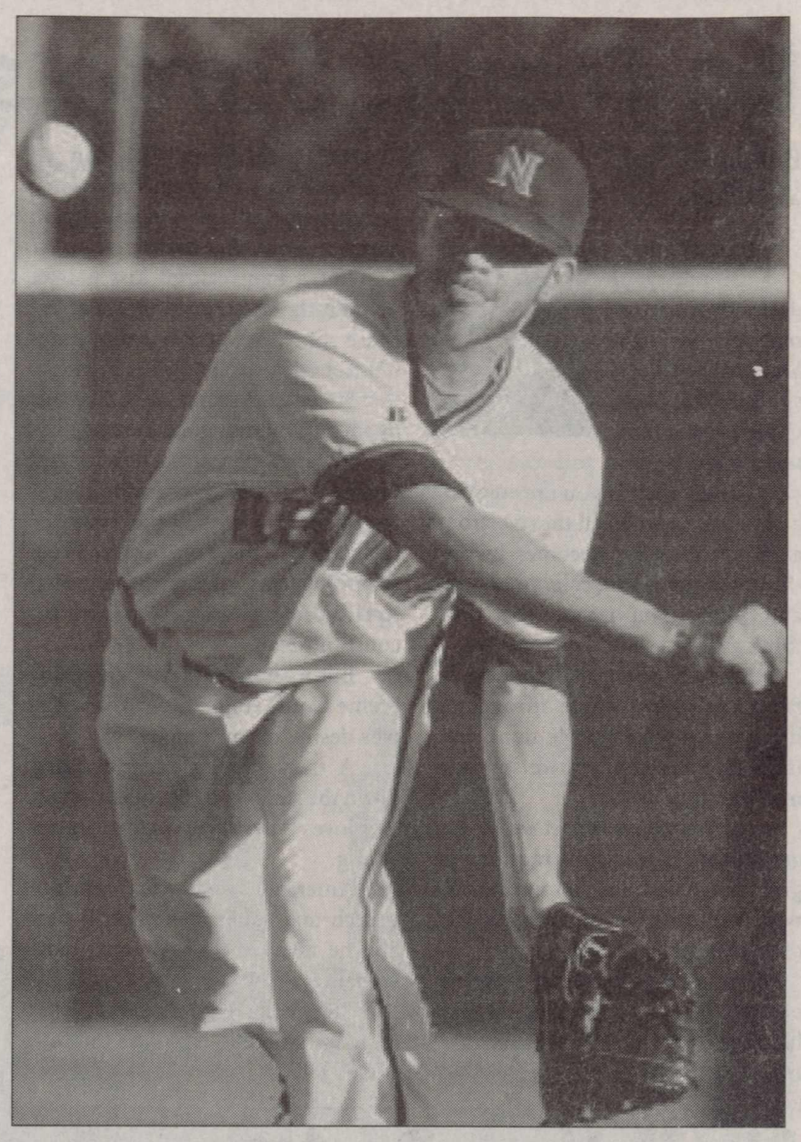


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Pitching gems are becoming commonplace for Jimmy Heard (1), as he pitched 8 2/3 innings and struck out five Colonels.

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Northwestern State baseball team notched another conference-series win over rival Nicholls State University this weekend, improving to 8-6 in conference play on the year.

Senior pitcher Jimmy Heard powered the Demons in game one's 5-2 win, as he threw 8 2/3 innings, giving up nine hits and two earned runs, while striking out five batters.

The Demons scored four runs in the first inning to give Heard a cushion to cruise.

"That lifts a whole bunch of pressure off of me," Heard said. "I can miss a couple of pitches and it not hurt me as bad. So that's always big."

Heard earned his fifth win of the year, improving to 5-1. Freshman pitcher Chad Sheppard pitched the final out to get his third save of the season.

NSU's big first inning was sparked by the first four batters reaching base, as shortstop Trent Grondin led off with a bunt single. Outfielder Jordan Nipp then doubled, advancing Grondin to third.

First baseman Justin O'Neal reached on a fielder's choice, advancing both runners, taking a 1-0 lead. Second baseman Chase Lyles then singled, moving both runners, but O'Neal scored because of a Colonel error.

Right fielder Tyler Baisley then hit a two-out single to score Lyles, giving the Demons four runs off of four hits in the inning.

Baisley added an insurance run for the Demons in the bottom of the sixth with a solo home run, his fourth of the year.

Nicholls brought a bit of a scare to the Demons in the bottom of the ninth with a leadoff triple by right fielder Scott Moseley. Zach Tisdale then grounded out, scoring Moseley.

Heard recorded another out, but allowed two base runners before Sheppard entered in relief. Sheppard threw a wild pitch, moving both base runners into scoring position.

Jason Dennis then singled up the middle to cut the lead to 5-2, but Drew Snider flew out to centerfield to end the game.

Nicholls' bats came alive in game two as the Colonels took Saturday's game 9-6.

The Colonel's scored a run in each of the first three innings before adding one in the fifth and four in the sixth to take a 8-0 lead after six innings.

The Demons responded with one big inning in the bottom of the seventh, putting up six runs to cut the lead to two.

Baisley started the inning by reaching on an error, then the Demons played small ball to cut the lead to 8-3 before Joe Urtuzuastegui smashed a three-run home run to bring the Demons within two. NSU scored six runs on five hits in the inning, leaving two on base.

The Colonels responded with one in the top of the eighth to extend the lead to 9-6, which is where the game would end. Colin Bear took the loss for the Demons after throwing 4 1/3 innings.

Bear gave up seven hits, four earned runs and two walks, while striking out three.

Kyle Broughton gave up four runs on two hits in 1 1/3 innings of relief. Jarrett Dunnam got the win for Nicholls, while Ross Larsen earned his third save of the season.

Offense again was a key aspect of Sunday's rubber match. The Demons jumped to an early 1-0 lead after one inning, holding that until Nicholls put up two runs in the fourth.

They added five runs in the fifth and one in the sixth, taking a commanding 8-1 lead.

The Demons battled back, scoring three runs in the bottom half of the sixth. Urtuzuastegui pounded a one-out double, sparking the rally. O'Neal singled, moving Urtuzuastegui to third before he scored on an error, allowing Chase Lyles to advance to first.

Lance Lacoste drilled a pinch-hit double down the right field line, scoring O'Neal.

Baisley picked up the final RBI of the inning, grounding out to third base and scoring Lyles.

The rally would not stop in the sixth, though. After cutting the lead to 8-4 after six, neither team scored in the seventh frame.

The Demons, however, put together another big inning, taking a 10-8 lead after a six-run eighth inning.

The Demons loaded the bases after the first three batters reached base. Pinch hitter Colin Bear singled to right field, scoring two runs, putting runners on the corners for the Demons with one out.

Eric DeBlanc got a pinch-hit single to score another run, moving Bear to third.

Urtuzuastegui hit a sacrifice fly to centerfield to score Bear, tying the game 8-8.

O'Neal capped off the inning with a two-run double to right field to push the Demons ahead 10-8, which is where the game ended, giving NSU the series win.

"That was a huge comeback for us, battling back the way we did," said head coach J.P. Davis, who was ejected from the game for arguing a call made by an umpire. "It's about winning the series, and we did just that."

DD Lott pitched two innings of relief to notch his first win of the season, improving to 1-1 on the year, while Chad Sheppard earned his second save of the weekend and sixth of the season.

The Demons move to 14-13 (8-6), 1 1/2 games back of first place. Nicholls drops to 12-17 (6-9).

NSU battled the Baylor Bears in non-conference action Tuesday night. Baylor bombed the Demons in a seven-inning rout, 18-1.

Baylor put up four runs in the first inning before breaking the game wide open with a 10-run third inning to give the Bears a 14-0 lead.

Senior first baseman highlighted the Demons' offensive performance with a solo home run in the fourth inning.

O'Neal also accounted for two of the Demons' five hits in the contest. Starting pitcher Clayton Cooper (0-4) took the loss after giving up 13 runs on 14 hits in 2 2/3 innings of work.

The Demons roll to San Antonio this weekend to face the Roadrunners of the University of Texas at San Antonio in a pivotal conference matchup. Friday's game is set for 6 p.m., followed by one at 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Demons' Upcoming Schedule

April 9	@UTSA	6 p.m.
April 10	@UTSA	2 p.m.
April 11	@UTSA	1 p.m.
April 15	@LA Tech	6:30 p.m.
April 17	**TSU**	**6:30 p.m.**

Bold denotes home game

Check out our Web site for the online exclusive on softball
www.thecurrentsauce.com

Davis off the diamond

Ron'eeka Hall
Sauce Reporter

Speed, a strong throwing arm and keen hand-eye coordination are all essential to a successful baseball player.

It is safe to say that Northwestern State's baseball team has a coach who possesses far more than the fundamental skills of baseball.

John Paul Davis – the Demon Baseball team's head coach – not only has all the athletic credentials of baseball under control, but also the valuable qualities of compassion, diligence and tenacity.

With nearly 30 years of experience in baseball as a coach and as a player, Davis understands the necessity for players to be well-rounded people on the field as well as off.

J.P. Davis presented the Demons with a vision for this team focused on citizenship, character and ambition. Davis has never been satisfied with mediocrity but rather always sees room for improvement and the extra mile.

Self-described as intense and hardworking, Davis transformed the Demon baseball team into more than a group of fine athletes, but also great students.

Twenty-five of the 35 men on Davis' fall 2008 roster were named to NSU's Honor Roll, proving that student athletes at NSU are driven by a coaching staff that takes A's on a report card just as seriously as a W on their record.

Baseball has been an influential part of Coach Davis' life, he said.

"Baseball is a game built around failure. The average player fails at hitting seven out 10 times," he said.

The game has taught Davis that "anything can happen and there is always something new to learn."

That optimistic attitude has carried Davis to the throne of athletic success upon which he now sits.

As a pitching coach for the Demons, Davis led the team to win three Southland Conference championships.

Athletic Director Greg Burke said Davis brings enthusiasm to the coaching staff.

"Coach Davis is always hungry for more," Burke said. "The tangible aspects are there, but he possesses the intangibles that make a great coach as well."

Davis advises students on this campus aspiring to be successful in life, "to be accountable for your actions, work hard and be persistent."

Coaching staff and colleagues alike all agree Davis is truly a jewel on and off the diamond.

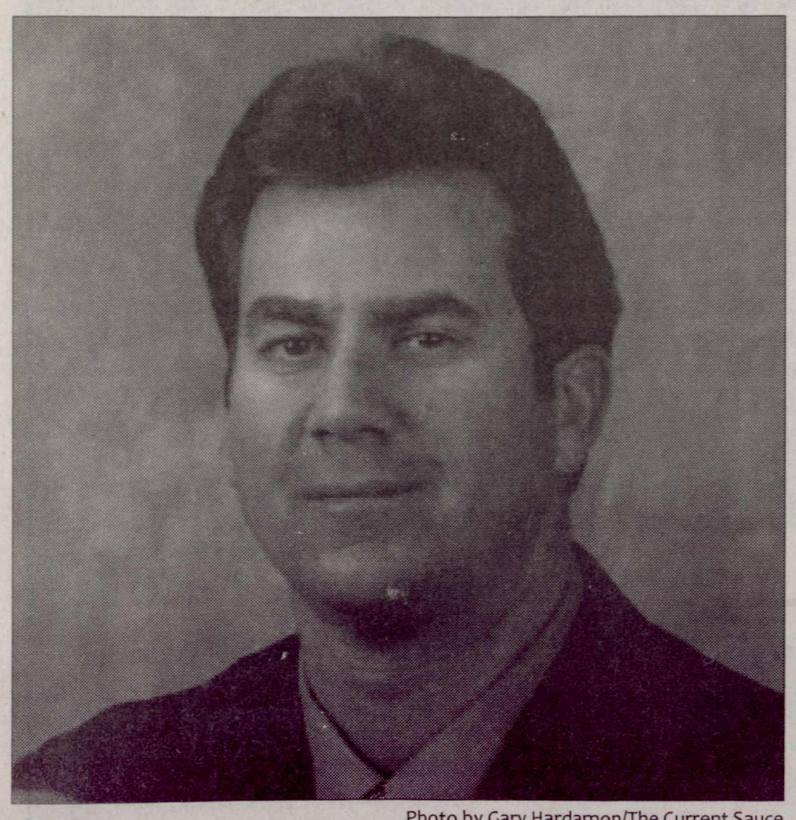


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce
Demons Head Coach J.P. Davis.

4x400 team runs past competition

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

Northwestern State's 4x400 relay team ran a season-best 3:08.21, winning the event at the Texas Relays and outrunning schools such as Jackson State, Texas-Arlington, Southeastern Louisiana, Stephen F. Austin and SEC member Mississippi State, along with other schools.

The team that consists of Michael Batts, Jamie Emery, Jeremy Thomas and Mike Green qualified for the NCAA Regionals, finishing almost two seconds ahead of the qualifying standard, 3:10.0.

Three-time All-American javelin thrower Cody Fillinich threw 235-1, earning him second place in the event.

He finished three feet ahead of the third place mark, but USC's Corey White finished nearly 40 feet ahead of Fillinich to take first place at the relays.

Hurdler Michael Hill ran a personal best 14.05 in the 110-meter hurdles, finishing in eighth place. Texas Tech's Omo Osaghe won the event in 13.42.

P.J. Bennett failed to advance in the hurdles, despite running a personal best 14.64. NSU recorded two top 10 finishes Friday afternoon.

Daniel Yarbrough snatched eighth place, throwing 165-2.

His throw was six feet behind his season and career bests, which he threw a month ago at the Northwestern Relays.

Corey Jones finished 10th with a throw of 163-9.

Jones' throw landed almost eight feet behind his career best of 171-4, which was also at the Northwestern Relays.

Shanae Steward ran a 14.99 time in the 100-meter hurdles in her outdoor debut, coming off an ankle injury.

Her career best was at the 2006 NCAA Mideast Regionals, finishing with a time of 13.60.

The Lady Demons' 4x400 relay team finished with a season-best 3:48.55 in a qualifying heat, but did not advance.

That team consists of Warren, Jasmine Williams, Carmen Wallace and Phyllis Iheanacho.

Sprinters Anna Forest and Shamaigun VanBuren each ran season-bests of 12.24 and 12.51, respectively, but both failed to advance.

The Demons and Lady Demons continue action as they travel to Tallahassee, Fla., to compete in the Seminole Invitational.

Tennis gets back to winning ways

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

The Lady Demons ennis team seems to have turned things around, winning two of its last three matches, beating the University of Louisiana at Monroe and McNeese State University.

Sitting in the No. 1 spot for the Lady Demons, Adna Curukovic proved that she was the top singles player for NSU as she won a first set tiebreaker 7-5, and the steam rolled to a 6-1 victory to help the Lady Demons win five of the seven points in single matches.

The other singles winners were Kathrin Lange who won 6-3, 6-4 in the number three singles match. The number four singles match was the toughest fought match of the day with NSU's Bianca Shultz winning 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, over Monica Winkel of ULM.

Daniela Posada gave the Lady Demons their fifth singles win of the day.

NSU also swept the doubles matches by winning all three. Lange and Schulz moved their record to 11-1 on the year with an 8-2 victory as the No. 2 doubles team.

Saturday's match against Lamar looked as though it was going to be an easy win for the Lady Demons when they stormed out of the gates by sweeping the doubles matches for a second straight match.

All the doubles matches had the final score of 8-2. The doubles team of Lange and Schulz extended their record to 12-1 and 7-0 in Southland Conference play.

The singles matches didn't go NSU's way with Lamar winning four of six matches.

The only wins in singles play for the Lady Demons came from the third seeded Lange who won 6-0, 6-0, and fifth seeded Daniela Posada, 6-3, 6-2.

After the close loss to the Lamar Lady Cardinals, the Lady Demons took out their frustration on the McNeese State Cowgirls by not only posting their third straight doubles sweep but by also sweeping all the singles matches for a 7-0 victory over MSU.

The doubles team of Lange and Schulz kept things rolling by running their record up to 13-1 and 8-0 in conference play with a 8-5 victory over MSU. The hardest matches for the Lady Demons came in the second seeded singles match between Olga Bazhanova and Victoria Martinez.

However Bazhanova was able to pull out the close victory for the Lady Demons, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2. The second close match of the day was also the last one that clinched the sweep for NSU. Freshman Suncica Strkic won the final match by the score of 7-6 (7-5), 7-5.

The Lady Demons' record is now at 11-6 overall and 5-3 in Southland Conference play.

NSU now turns its attention to the University of Central Arkansas as the Demons host the last home tennis match today at 3 p.m.

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THE CURRENT SAUCE

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 • Natchitoches, Louisiana

Student Newspaper of NSU since 1914 • Volume 94: Issue 28

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This week

Road to recovery

NSU alumnus rehabilitates after car crash.

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Bar hopping

Student sums up his view of Natchitoches night life.

p. 5

Weekend blowout

Demon baseball team swept in series for total of 45 runs.

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Please visit us on the Web at www.thecurrentsauce.com

Want to write or take photos for the Sauce? Come to our meetings in room 227 Kyser Hall every Monday at 5 p.m.

Send all your questions to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

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Weather

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Sunday 85°/61°

Monday 84°/60°

Tuesday 83°/61°

Bourque passes torch to Wingfield



Photo by David Royal /The Current Sauce

Dean of Students Chris Maggio swears in new SGA President Kayla Wingfield on Monday in the NSU TV Studio. Wingfield's inauguration ceremony also included a farewell speech from outgoing SGA President Cody Bourque.

David Royal
News Editor

After giving his farewell speech, 2008-'09 Student Government Association President Cody Bourque took his seat so that Kayla Wingfield could be sworn in as president by Dean of Students Chris Maggio.

Bourque said the inauguration ceremony served as a big wake-up call for him.

"It definitely hit me after I was finished with the ceremony," Bourque said. "I went back to my office…and I had an ultimate moment of reflection."

Bourque said he is proud of the work he and his senate have put in for not just this spring semester, but his entire term as SGA president, and said he is leaving with no major regrets.

This semester, Bourque admits that the SGA did not reach all of its goals, but he said this is because he and the executive board set their goals higher than other administrations did in the past.

"We had a lot of things to address, and we spread ourselves a little too thin on some things…but I am really happy with everything for the most part," Bourque said.

The best example of this is the SGA's work with student fees, Bourque said.

Last month, the SGA passed legislation that would raise student fees for the Organizational Relief Fund committee, Student Alumni Association and travel for the NSU band by $7.50.

Bourque explained he had hoped the student body would have the opportunity to vote on the raising of the fees this semester, but because the senate did not approve the legislation earlier in the semester, ULS President Randy Moffet told the SGA that the piece of legislation must wait until the fall.

Bourque said he was disappointed that he could not see the fees go into effect for next semester, and he wishes the SGA could have worked harder to have made it happen.

Another of the SGA's goals at the beginning of the fall semester was to reassess which students – in particular, those who take their classes on and off campus – should be charged student fees and how much they should be charged.

Bourque explained, however, that the issue was more tedious than expected and will require attorneys to look into what can actually be done. Because of this, Bourque said action will not be taken concerning the issue until next semester.

"There's a lot of red tape with this issue, and I would rather make sure we do things right," Bourque said.

The most positive change the SGA brought to the university is an increase in student body involvement, Bourque said.

Through forums and interaction with senators, Bourque said students on campus are more informed than they have been in years.

Bourque said a reflection of this student involvement came with the Mr. and Miss NSU bill, which he called a double-edged sword.

He said the Mr. and Miss NSU bill created the most student interest this year, but it also brought out negative sides within the SGA due to the bill's controversial issue.

The "internal struggles" displayed by the senators as a result of the bill was the biggest obstacle the SGA had to face this semester, Bourque said. He added, however, that those types of problems are present within any organization and the SGA was able to overcome it by the end of the semester.

During his term, Bourque had to face the effects of both Hurricanes Ike and Gustav. Another obstacle with serious effects that Bourque and the SGA had to overcome this semester was mid-year budget cuts.

Bourque said when dealing with the unexpected cuts in funding, he and the SGA tried to stay constantly involved in discussion with the NSU administration and students.

He said, however, that he thinks Wingfield will have more difficulties as a result of the budget cuts than he had as SGA president.

"I don't envy Kayla's job in the future with the budget cuts," Bourque said.

Cont. on p. 2

Faculty, students take home Research Day honors

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor/Copy Editor

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs presented this year's Mildred Hart Bailey Faculty Awards to Holly Stave, professor of English at the Louisiana Scholars' College, and Matthew DeFord, an assistant professor of art at NSU.

"I was humbled. I felt very honored that I'd be recognized as a faculty member in that right," DeFord said.

Mildred Hart Bailey Faculty Awards are given to faculty members who have conducted outstanding research or created distinguished artistic work during the past three years, according to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Thomas Hanson presented Stave with her plaque. Stave said she appreciated the ceremony, which took place in Nelson Hall on April 2.

"Researching literary studies is pretty much a solitary business," Stave said. "You spend a lot of hours reading and digging through stuff in libraries and on the Internet, so the public recognition was nice."

Two students, Robert Abernathy and Beth Ann Pryor, received undergraduate awards at Research Day. Ryan Smith was recognized with an Honorable Mention award. Abernathy, a senior in the Scholars' College, submitted his thesis, "Gods and Pygmalions: Ancestry and Legacy of an Artistic Myth." Pryor, a senior accounting and business major at the Scholars' College, submitted her thesis, "Special Purpose Entities: A Concept of the Past."

Pryor's thesis concentrated on the progression of concepts and practices in accounting, particularly the aggressive accounting methods Enron used to alter their financial statements to conceal debts.

Pryor has presented her thesis before, but she did not have the chance to present it in front of her fellow students at Research Day.

Restraints on the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs budget caused university to scale down the event, settling for a short ceremony instead of an all-day event.

This was Pryor's first year participating in Research Day. Though she was surprised and excited to receive the award, Pryor said she was disappointed that her thesis was only posted online.

"No one read that except for the people who were judging it," she said.

Pryor explained that she would have appreciated the chance to elaborate on her research in front of an audience of other students instead of just the judges.

Still, Pryor said working on her thesis with the help of her professors in the Scholars' College proved to be a valuable asset to her education.

"It was a great experience," she said.

Pryor and Stave noted that despite the difficult economic circumstances, the people who organized Research Day did their best and made the event a success.

Pryor and Stave both said they hope Research Day will involve student and faculty presentations again in the future.

"I think one of the most valuable things we can do for the students is to give them the opportunity to present their research in front of an audience," Stave said.

Stave added that for many students, giving speeches and reading aloud can be challenging.

For Scholars' students, Research Day presentations serve as preparation for thesis defenses, Stave said.

"I hope the funding comes back so that we can have Research Day again, because it really gives people a chance to be in that venue," she said.

Stave also noted that students and faculty should attend Research Day presentations to learn about what their peers are doing at the university.

"What I've always wanted my students to know is that I'm not asking them to do anything I'm not doing. When I'm asking them to write papers and do literary research, I'm doing it, too," Stave said. "I'm not having them just jump through hoops to amuse me. What we do in this discipline is write and present."

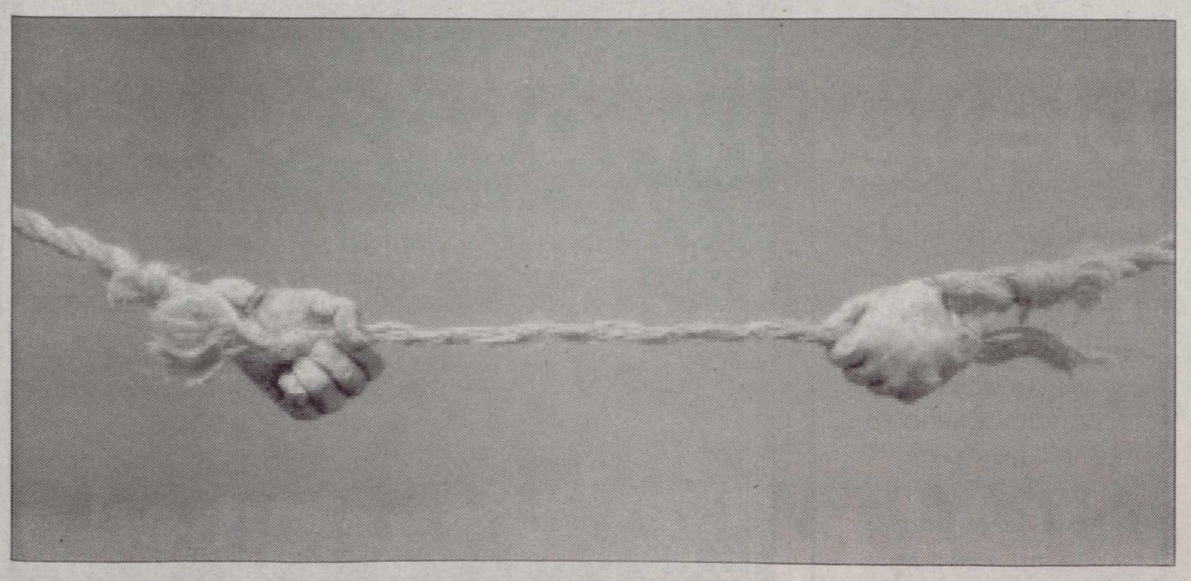
Both DeFord and Stave said Research Day is a way for students to enrich knowledge of new and interesting areas of study.

"It really is a nice opportunity to glean from other fields," DeFord said. "Any kind of extracurricular activity that the university offers is going to enhance your education, but in particular, Research Day is one of those."

Stave said Research Day has other benefits as well.

"I think it's also important for faculty to realize that students are doing good work," she said. "It reminds you of why you decided to go into education, and you see that it really is important."

For the full version of this story, visit www.thecurrentsauce.com.



Courtesy Photo

The sculptures of Assistant Professor of Art Matthew DeFord were featured in the Hanchey Art Gallery. DeFord won a Mildred Hart Bailey Faculty Award this year for his work.

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7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"Fighting"
Rated PG-13
Saturday & Sunday
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7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Mon.-Thurs.
7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"17 Again"
Rated PG-13
Saturday & Sunday
12:45 p.m., 3:45 p.m.
7:15 p.m.,9:30 p.m.
Friday, Mon.-Thurs.
7:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"Fast & Furious"
Rated PG-13
Saturday & Sunday
1 p.m., 4 p.m.
7:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Mon.-Thurs.
7:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"Monsters vs. Aliens"
Rated PG
Saturday & Sunday
1 p.m., 7:15 p.m.
Friday, Mon.-Thurs.
7:15 p.m.

"Crank: High Voltage"
Rated R
Saturday & Sunday
4 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Mon.-Thurs.
7:15 p.m.

"Hannah Montana Movie"
Rated G
Saturday & Sunday
1 p.m., 4 p.m.
7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Mon.-Thurs.
7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

1011 Keyser Ave.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Professor receives LA Distinguished Counselor Educator Award

Tiffany Thomas
Freshman Scholar

Gerra Perkins of the College of Education was honored with the Louisiana Distinguished Counselor Educator Award for her efforts to promote counselor education and counseling as a profession.

In addition to serving in the counseling master's degree program at Northwestern State and teaching in the Student Personnel Services Program, Perkins was also recognized for her leadership in student projects and grant writing.

Her leadership in the service grant, "Combating Truancy: A Prevention and Remediation Focus for the New Orleans Recovery School District" received statewide attention and interest.

Aside from her contributions regarding grants and service learning to bolster counseling as a profession, Perkins considers the most rewarding experience of her career to be her "interactions with the students that have involved helping them with their professional development."

An example of those interactions is last October when Perkins traveled with eight students to the Louisiana Counseling Association Conference. The students presented their studies and research in counseling.

Perkins said the conference was a success because the students had the opportunity to get involved in the "professional counseling arena."

Perkins traveled with students and master's degree candidates Danielle McDaniel and Kimberly Cain to the American Counseling Association Conference in Charlotte, N. C., where they presented their research on the "Combating Truancy" grant.

Cain commented that the grant "offered a unique service-learning opportunity" that falls in line with her objectives for her students.

Another contribution of Perkins to NSU and students is her hand in amending the university's counseling program, which now allows an accredited graduate to become a National Certified Counselor.

Along with her teachings and research, other things Perkins would like her students to take away from her instruction is "a really strong professional identity as a counselor, an understanding of their strengths and a love for counseling in general."

Perkins' desire is for her students to have a love for helping people, which is the crux of being an effective counselor.

After her efforts to fulfill and continue this desire, Perkins, herself has indeed been a model example of a person who loves to help others.



Photo by Tiffany Thomas/ The Current Sauce

Gerra Perkins, recipient of the Louisiana Distinguished Counselor Educator Award, teaches her class. She played a role in forming the grant "Combating Truancy."

Graduating seniors to attend luncheon, network with alumni

Sarah Cramer
Staff Reporter

The Student Alumni Association will be celebrating the NSU's graduating seniors May 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the university's first Senior Transition Luncheon.

Being held in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom, the luncheon will have a short program, which will include an alumni speaker who has not yet been decided.

SSA Coordinator Lauren Michel said the luncheon will provide students with information about the Alumni Center and what the organization does.

Michel assured, however, that although the seniors will be provided with details on the association, there will be no strings attached.

"No one will be asking them for money," Michel said.

Michel explained that the SSA, which got its start in January, works to connect students with the alumni.

"[The SSA] is for students to be able to network with alumni and connect students to the idea of being an alumni, as well as seeing what Northwestern's alumni do," Michel said.

Michel said NSU has distinguished graduates, and those who will be graduating soon have a great opportunity with the organization's Web site to communicate with alumni and read articles that are posted.

She added that once students become alumni, they can also log on to the Web site and keep up with their classmates.

In addition to the online community and news articles to keep members up-to-date on what's happening on campus, other networking opportunities provided by the association include social events, an online career center and the "Alumni Columns," a quarterly magazine.

The association is also working to start chapters throughout different cities to keep alumni plugged in, Michel said.

Michel, the staff of SSA and the Alumni Association hope that the luncheon will encourage future alumni to become a part of the association.

The luncheon, which will be served by Sodexo, is free for graduating seniors and $12 for each guest.

Students must register by April 30.

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SGA president inauguration

Cont. from p. 1

Although he said he enjoyed his time as president, Bourque described his term as "bittersweet." Because he is a self-proclaimed "workaholic," Bourque explained that at times his personal life suffered.

Additionally, Bourque said he quickly realized his time as president would not be like he expected it to be.

"You get a harsh bite of reality when you're in this position," Bourque said. "You have all these challenges, and you do as much as you can, but there is only so much you can do."

Bourque said, however, he is confident in Wingfield's abilities and said he will still be around to assist her next year.

Wingfield explained that she and her executive board plan to do things similarly to Bourque's administration to help the school make it through next fiscal year's budget cuts.

"We'll have to be creative to be able to stretch our buck even further," Wingfield said.

Wingfield said she becomes anxious when she thinks about next year.

"I'm the good kind of nervous, the kind that will make me get out there and actually do stuff," Wingfield said.

Tune in to
"Agree to
Disagree"
on *KNWD The*
Demon 91.7 FM
with Cody Bourque
and Bethany Frank
Fridays from
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Tori Ladd
Life Editor
tladd001@student.nsula.edu

Film concentration kicks off in fall

Tori Ladd
Life Editor

Ever-changing and evolving, NSU modernizes its programs so that students receive the best quality in education.

The department of language and communications located in the college of liberal arts will be offering two new classes in the fall and one new class in the summer.

The courses are part of the new film concentration available in the department of language and communications.

The first new class, "Intro to Film: Film Genres," will be offered this summer by assistant professor and director of graduate studies in English Allen Bauman Ph.D. This class will introduce students to the basic genres of film.

The creator of the second two classes is James Crank, Ph.D, assistant professor of American literature and director of undergraduate studies/director of the NSU Writing Project.

The first class that will be offered in the fall will be Native American literature.

The course will explore Native American culture and literature from the first encounter with European explorers in North America, through the struggle for settlement and relocation, to the 21st century reservation system.

"We'll be looking at books from contemporary writers like Silko, Erdrich and Alexie, as well as poetry, legends, myths, and fiction that covers over two centuries of Native American history," Crank said.

Crank said the Native American class was one he designed in graduate school about five years ago.

"I've been itching to teach it ever since I got my Ph.D., because my research interests in Southern literature and culture dovetail nicely with Native communities, especially the Cherokee/Appalachian connection."

The third class that will be offered is "Modern Drama."

In an e-mail, Crank said the course looks at the critical concept of modernism as explored through 20th and 21st century dramatists.

The class starts in the late nineteenth century, European and American dramatist turned sharply from both the "kitchen-sink realism" of Chekhov and the melodrama of Arnold to a wild experimentation with the form, structure and ritual of the dramatic text, according to the course description from Crank.

The Modern Drama course will also include 20th century modern drama revised and contested traditional tenants of time, space and absurdity.

"In this class, we'll explore this unique drama by looking at dramatists like Pirandello, Beckett, Pinter, Stoppard, Mamet, Shepard and Suzan Lori-Parks," Crank said.

Crank created the Native American literature class last year.

"It's part of a larger subject heading, 'multicultural lit,'" Crank said. "I imagine I will offer it under the headings, 'Asian American Discourse,' 'The Color of Selfhood: African American Literature and Culture,' and 'Rethinking Latino/a.' The modern drama class has been on the books for a while but hasn't been taught in about five years.

To transpire the courses from an idea to reality, Crank formed a syllabus.

"For the Native American lit class, I had to design a syllabus, bibliography, etc. for the Curriculum Review Committee (CRC)," Crank said.

"The proposal went up before the board last year, and they approved it for inclusion into NSU's catalog. After that, it was just trying to fit it into the schedule as soon as possible."

Crank said he chose the texts, but the curriculum was reviewed by the CRC before it was approved.

"It's a good process, and you get a lot of input into the class from multiple disciplines – which ultimately make the class better," Crank said.

Crank feels students will react to him a positive way.

"I don't think I am a typical professor who just stands in one place and lectures," Crank said. "I prefer to interact with students with a variety of different exercises. I am a very laid-back professor – which doesn't mean that the time in class is chaotic or unstructured – but I prefer to let the students guide the discussion and shape the meaning for themselves. I act as a facilitator for that, and when needed, a purposeful moderator."

In the fall of 2010, Crank will be teaching a course on American horror films.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Miss Louisiana contestants pose for a group photo in front of the Alumni Plaza. From left to right: Mandi Ridgdell, Carlee McCord, Whitney Mixon and Brittany Pippin.

Demons aim for Miss Louisiana title in summer competition

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist

Butt glue, hair spray, concealer, talent and charm.

And a little bit of filé tossed over the shoulder for good luck.

Four NSU women are armed and ready for the battlefield that is the Miss Louisiana Pageant.

"A dream come true," "my life's ambitions met," "world peace"—all phrases said by women in the Miss America pageant.

This is pageant where women receive the opportunity to flaunt their beauty, earn scholarships and compete for the coveted crown and honor accompanied the title of Miss America.

Fifty-two women attend the Miss America pageant each year representing each state in the country, the District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands.

This June, four NSU students will meet in Monroe, La. to compete for the Miss Louisiana crown.

"This is where it gets competitive," Carlee McCord, junior criminal justice major, said. "You're competing for Miss Louisiana. [It's] more than just clothes and make up."

McCord was crowned Miss Holiday in Dixie on Nov. 29. She competed in five pageants within the year beginning with the Miss Lady of the Bracelet pageant in 2008, where she was awarded second runner-up and won the swimsuit competition.

She was supposed to compete in the Miss Lady of the Bracelet pageant this February after passing preliminaries, but she was not able to compete after winning Miss Holiday in Dixie.

McCord never thought she would win Miss Holiday in Dixie after not placing in any of the preliminary awards, but she ended up head over heels in shock.

"I was moving my dress so [the girl behind me] could be crowned, and I fell," she said. "I was so shocked. You would have thought I won a million dollars."

Brittany Pippin, freshman psychology major, will join McCord at Miss Louisiana as the Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet.

"[Winning] was unexpected as a freshman," Pippin said. "That moment was indescribable."

Pippin has participated in four pageants since she was 12 years old and walked away with the crown each time. She said she was a "little girl who liked to dress up."

"Now I realize what a difference a titleholder can make," she added.

Pippin tries to have qualities a role model should possess by being a good leader, standing up for what she believes in and making good decisions.

Whitney Mixon, sophomore psychology major, was scheduled to compete with Pippin in the Miss Lady of the Bracelet this February, but was no longer able to compete after being crowned Pineville's third ever Miss City of Pineville.

"Sometimes even crazy dreams come true," Mixon said referring to the song, Crazy Dreams, by Carrie Underwood. As she told her mom, "I just wanted to hang with the big girls."

Mixon wanted to get some experience competing in the Miss America circuit before standing in front of her peers at the Miss Lady of the Bracelet pageant, so she competed in the City of Pineville pageant on January 17. Mixon hopes to try again next year for the Miss Lady of the Bracelet pageant.

The 2008 Miss Lady of the Bracelet, Mandi Ridgdell, will join her NSU peers at the Miss Louisiana pageant, but Miss Louisiana is not new territory for the senior theatre major.

Ridgdell competed last summer for Miss Louisiana when she represented Northwestern as the Miss Lady of the Bracelet and made top ten, won talent preliminaries and won People's Choice.

In order to compete again for the Miss Louisiana crown, the 2008 Miss Lady of the Bracelet competed in about eight pageants this year alone, where she won talent and placed first runner-up at almost all of the pageants, Ridgdell said.

"Competing in Miss Louisiana last year was one of the most amazing experiences of my life," she said. "I learned that I could set a goal for myself, and then through hard work and determination I can reach that goal and beyond."

This summer, Ridgdell will compete again at Miss Louisiana as Miss Louisiana Jazzland 2009.

"This year isn't much different," Ridgdell said. "I have set a goal for myself and I am working hard to achieve it in any way possible. I have my eyes on a bigger goal. I want to be Miss America."

Students challenged to give blood

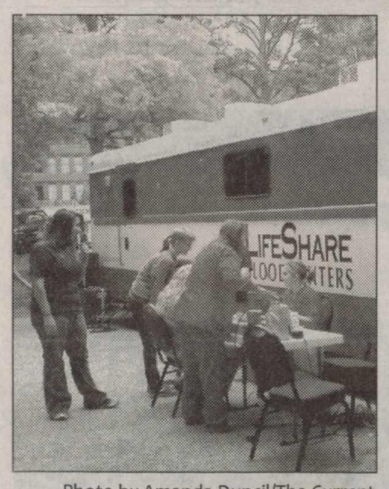


Photo by Amanda Duncil/The Current Sauce

Students prepare to give blood at the first "chicken challenge" on campus.

Amanda Duncil
Sauce Reporter

For Greek Week, the Order of Omega organized a blood drive "chicken challenge." The Greek teams who collected the least amount of blood was awarded a chicken trophy that said "No guts, no glory."

More Greeks turned out to participate in the event, but were outnumbered by non-Greek students, Donor Recruiter Debra Ainsworth said.

The turnout was affected mostly by students who were too afraid of needles while only few couldn't meet the requirements needed to donate.

Greeks from the different teams stood outside the Friedman Student Union, recruiting people to donate.

Many people were unaware of the drive and seemed interested when approached, freshman nursing major Megan Vets said.

"I'm excited that I can [give blood]," Vets said.

LifeShare collected 177 units of blood through Wednesday.

"Our ultimate goal is 300 units," Ainsworth said.

Although the drive takes place every year, this was the first year to have as much participation due to the challenge.

"The need for blood never stops," Ainsworth said.

Area hospitals require 100 units of blood per day to meet their needs.

The drives help encourage people to stop and give blood during the holiday season when most people are busy traveling, Ainsworth said.


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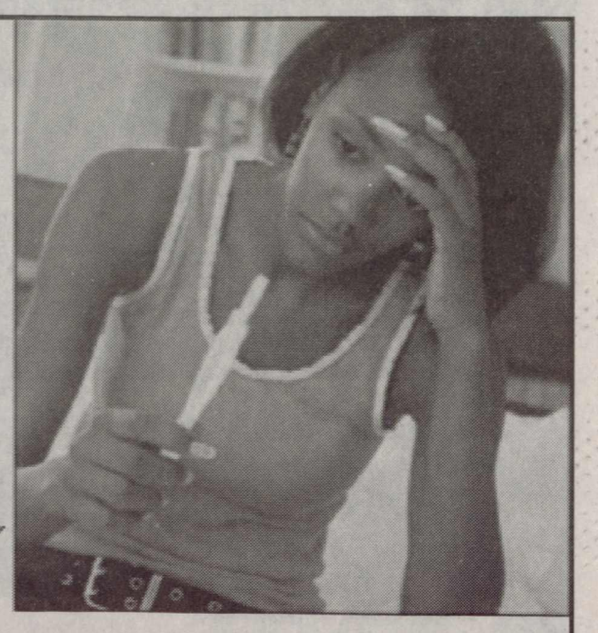
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Car collision changes student's life

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist

There are moments a mother never forgets.

The first time her baby walks, eats solid foods or says his first words. They are moments most mothers don't think they will ever live through twice.

This was not the case for Jeanie Olinger. This Monday she found joy in hearing her son speak his first words for a second time.

"He said 'uh-uh' twice today," she said. "It isn't much, but it's something."

Chris Hampton, Olinger's son, was never a man short of words, but after a T-bone collision Nov. 8 on LA HWY 174, all that changed.

Hampton was riding with Steven McCardle, driver and fall 2008 graduate, to the LSU football game that Saturday when they were hit by a Chevrolet pickup.

"Chris wanted a smoke, and I don't smoke," McCardle said. "He was being respectful by asking me to pull over. We were downhill from where the truck was coming, and we were T-Boned."

McCardle received moderate injuries and was transported to Natchitoches Regional Hospital, while his passenger, Hampton, received serious injuries and was transported to LSU Medical Center in Shreveport, according to the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office.

Seatbelt use is unknown and toxicology tests and charges are pending.

Hampton, senior music major was living in Shreveport and substitute teaching in Bossier Parish when the accident occurred. He only had his student teaching left before graduation.

Hampton didn't have a name when he got Shreveport, Olinger said. "He came as John Doe."

It was then that the calls and Facebook messages came in abundance to get in touch with Hampton's family.

"A mutual friend of mine and Chris', Shannon Gillary, called me," Jarrett Bailey, Hampton's friend and band member, said. "She asked me if I knew Chris' mom's number. I said, 'I have no idea. What's going on?' and she told me what happened. I was kind of floored. I didn't know what to do."

As the chain of events unfolded, Bailey left that day for Shreveport instead of attending a wedding – the reason he came into Natchitoches.

"I didn't know what to do," he said. "I didn't have any information for Chris. I didn't know his mom's number, I didn't know where she was, didn't know his dad's number, nothing. And from what I understood, things were serious enough that they needed her permission to do whatever they were going to do to Chris."

After the accident, the police went through Hampton's cell phone because they couldn't find an ID and called Hampton's dad who lives in Oklahoma, Olinger said. Hampton's dad and sister drove seven hours from Oklahoma that day.

Olinger soon joined them after catching a flight from Illinois to Louisiana.

Hampton spent three weeks in the intensive care unit.

His injuries included a broken neck, spinal break in the back, crushed right ribs, six broken ribs on his left side, punctured and collapsed right lung, liver laceration, spleen laceration and right brain injuries.

"I was expecting him to wake up and bounce back up, but he didn't. [You] think it's going to be a snap-out-of-it situation, but it's not," McCardle said. "Generally, you look at your best friend, he's staring at you and you don't know what to say. It can be difficult."

"He will get better. He still needs prayer," McCardle said. "If you ever get the chance to get to know him, don't pass it up."

While in the hospital, he also got pneumonia and a staff infection.

"It was a real battle," Olinger said.

Hampton stayed at the LSU Medical Center until Feb. 24 when he was transferred to Bernice Nursing and Rehab Center in Bernice, La.

There he underwent physical therapy Monday through Friday and is working on regaining muscle movement. He also received electric shocks through his legs and some on his face and chin to wake up muscles to help him eat, Olinger said.

"It's remarkable what they've done with him in a month," she said.

He has been able to get up in a chair every day; his lungs are kept clear; he began moving his left hand, foot and arm well and is beginning to move his right side, Olinger said.

His hands and arms are contracted, and he is holding his hands in with tight fingers. He was able to stand up for the first time again a few weeks ago.

"He gripes at [the nurses]," Olinger said. "He's not speaking words, but he's speaking loud."

Hampton marched on the drumline since he was in the sixth grade. He spent his junior and senior years of high school as drum captain in Pineville.

He also marched on the Spirit of Northwestern drumline and was drum captain for the 2007 marching season.

But his passion for music came much earlier.

When he was eight years old, "[Chris] looked at me and said, 'Mom, God wants me to play the gospel on the drums," Olinger said.

After playing for a few months, Hampton had his first "gig" with a 20-member band at church.

"He was so little, you couldn't even see him," Olinger said. "He just jumped in there. Nothing fancy, just kept the beat."

Hampton joined the Bailey's band, the Entertainers, in 2004 when they were in need of a drummer.

"Our band got better immediately," Bailey said. "Chris is just a great guy. He adds a lot personality wise. Chris is a great Christian guy, and his heart is just awesome."

A few weeks before the accident, Hampton and Bailey were writing music together. They wanted to start another band and perform original works, unlike the funk and R&B cover songs the Entertainers play.

"So when [Chris] gets finished with Bernice, when he walks out, we are going to do that," Bailey said.

After the accident, Bailey's phone was bombarded with phone calls from Chris' friends wanting to help out.

Bailey organized a few benefits to help support Chris while he is in the hospital, including concerts at the Pioneer Pub and one at the Natchitoches Christmas Festival.

"So many of [Chris'] friends were musicians and just loved Chris so much that they wanted to help, and what we do is play music. It's what we do," Bailey said. "Chris would want it no other way. I think it is a great tribute to him that so many of his friends want to use all that they have."

Members of the Creative and Performing Arts department also joined together to help raise money for Hampton.

CAPA organizations have thrown parties and held fundraisers around town, James Durbin, Hampton's friend and junior music major said. Last semester the organizations also worked with Chili's restaurant, and it donated 10 percent of one night's profits to help Hampton.

Durbin and some of Chris' friends have also been working with local bands to perform a benefit concert on May 1 on the Front Street Stage.

The entertainment will include 2112, Mudflap Junkies, Sumthin Serious, Alitheia, a hip-hop artist named Rio, Them Jazz Cats and 7 hours to Southland. The concert will be from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with $7 cover, Durbin said.

"Most of Hampton's friends are college students without much money," Bailey said. "But they do have talent, and they do have a desire to help."

Knowing that they could not begin to cover the medical costs, the money was used to cover any immediate costs and to help Chris' mom stay in town.

"They are the reason I've been able to stay with him and take care of him 24/7," Olinger said.

Olinger was living in Chicago and holding down two or three jobs trying to pay the bills and save money for a mission trip to Africa this spring. She was scheduled to leave January 5 and return this week. While in Africa, Olinger was going to be the assistant dean of students for a mission school, she said.

Olinger stayed with Hampton since the accident and witnessed firsthand the effect Hampton had on others' lives.

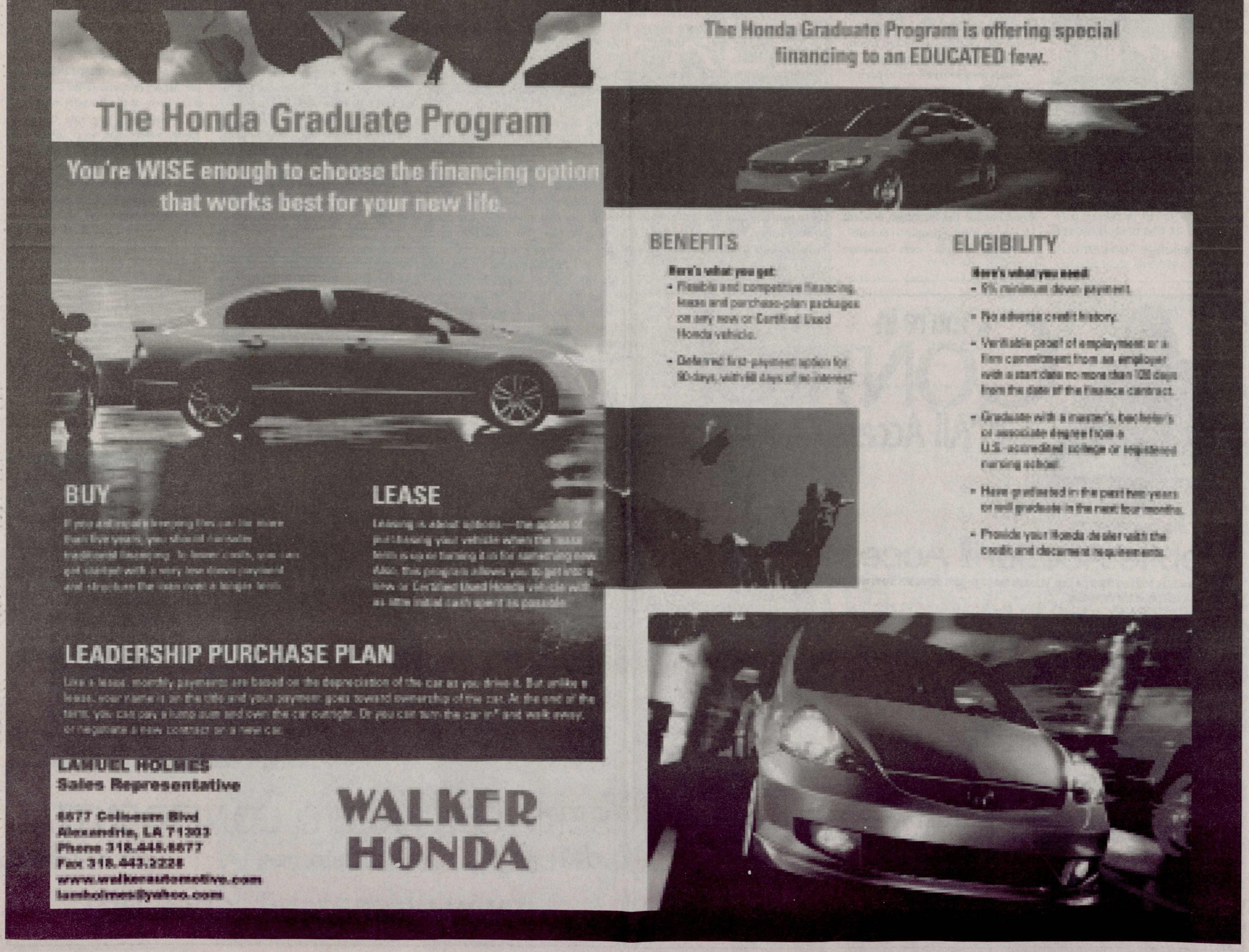
"[It's been] overwhelming," she said. "The people who came and the lives [Chris] had touched. I had no idea of the lives he had touched."

Months after Hampton's accident, his Facebook still receives continuous messages from friends and people who's lives he touched, and cards and photographs still appear in the mailbox.

The messages range from hellos to best wishes to congratulatory comments regarding his progress to the reminiscing of memories, all of which Olinger reads and shows to him on a daily basis.

"One of the things Chris always wanted was for people to come together and love each other," Bailey said. "

And that is exactly what has happened throughout this whole ordeal. And I know that when he comes out, when he moves past this, that he will be able to look back on it, and at least part of him will be satisfied with what happened because it was a way to bring people together even though it was in not the most beautiful sense of bringing people together."



Joe Cunningham
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April 22, 2009

OPINIONS 5

Editor in Chief reflects

Leigh Guidry
Editor in Chief



About a month ago, I joined a group of student leaders for a dinner with President Webb and his wife.

As I was getting dressed up for dinner, I had a flashback to the last time I'd had dinner at the president's house.

I was a senior in high school coming to a dinner for incoming freshmen of the Louisiana Scholars' College.

I couldn't help but notice how differently I felt four years ago – I was so uncomfortable.

First of all, my pants didn't fit. I was still having a problem with the idea that you don't stay the same size as you are in high school, and tight pants do not make for a good car ride.

Second, I was riding in a car with my soon-to-be roomie – whom I hardly knew – for two and a half hours, which left plenty of time for a few awkward silences. Needless to say, it was not the smoothest experience of my life.

But last month's dinner was different.

This time I had bigger pants, but I was comfortable in more than just my clothes. I was comfortable in my own skin, in my surroundings and in who I was.

For that change, much of my thanks goes to NSU and the people and experiences the university has brought into my life.

It's hard to sum up my entire college experience in a few lines, but in the last four years, I've experienced living in a dorm and learned how to battle mold.

I've learned that college is about more than just homework. I've made friends and have seen that person from that first car ride go from practical stranger to roommate to my maid of honor. I've had one boyfriend, one fiancé and one husband in college – all one in the same.

I've spent loads of time working with student media. When I think back over the last two years, two words spring to mind: Current Sauce.

I've worked on the Sauce all four years, but the newspaper occupied most of my time in the last two.

My college experience has been a full one and a good one, and there's plenty that I'm sure I'll miss in a few weeks.

As weird as it might sound, I'll miss going to class every day. I've done it for 17 years now, and in two weeks I may never do it again. I'm also going to miss the option to skip. Employers frown on that, I'm sure.

I think I'll miss the Sauce most of all. It's been a part of my life in increasing increments since my freshman year. It has brought with it some of my best friends – people I spend all my time with, go on "dates" with and have inside jokes with.

It provided me with a built-in sleepover every Tuesday night, even though it hardly ever involved sleep.

It also taught me a lot about journalism, working with people, laying out a paper, dealing with people who don't like your paper, and coping with Macs that decide to quit on you and delete files at the worst times.

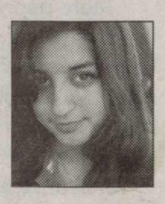
Sometimes I feel more married to the paper than to Eric, but I can honestly say that I have put all of me into this paper, and that I've been proud of the product and my staff each week.

I may be more comfortable than I was in high school, but I'm still not 100 percent sure of myself. I have no idea what I'm doing in three weeks after I graduate, other than continue to hunt for a job and figure out my future.

No biggie, right?

Associate Editor says goodbye

Kelli Fontenot
Associate Editor



I missed the Lyrid meteor shower yesterday.

In the middle of the night, dozens of meteors flew away from Lyra, my favorite constellation. The full moon probably made it hard to see some of the fainter fireballs, but astronomers all over the world were sipping espresso just before dawn, staring through the lenses of their telescopes, waiting for the pinpricks of light to streak across the sky.

It was, in all likelihood, one of the most beautiful moments of the year.

But I missed it. At the time, I was sitting in the Current Sauce office, marking final corrections with a soft red pencil.

I drank coffee.

I Googled.

I flipped through the Associated Press stylebook, asked questions, made phone calls, checked and double-checked until I had trouble keeping my eyes open.

Despite the trials of waking up for my 11 a.m. class every Wednesday after staying up until 7:30 a.m. working on this newspaper, I love it.

I love writing and editing. It's what I want to do with the rest of my life, and it's what I've been learning about for the last four years.

When I tell people that I am studying journalism, they get excited.

Their eyes light up, and they ask, "So, when will I see you on TV?"

When I explain that I want to edit and write articles instead, they nod, but it's clear that I have shattered their view of my glamorous future on the Channel 5 news.

I also don't plan to "make a name for myself as an investigatory journalist, no matter how many people I leave dead and bloodied and dying along the way," to quote "Zoolander."

Editing is a passion I've had for a long time. I love doing research and following a stylebook, as well as working with reporters on their stories and watching their writing improve over time. My experience with student media at this university has been invaluable to my education.

In recent years, reactions to my declared major have evolved into a general consensus that when I graduate, I will probably have to start waitressing.

Newspapers are scaling back, and jobs are disappearing throughout the industry.

I am aware that I'm probably entering this field at a bad time, but I'm excited about the challenges I will face.

In the end, the knowledge I obtained and the people I met along the way will certainly help to make up for the moments, mischief and meteors I've missed.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Current Sauce or the university. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Guest columnists must be NSU students, but letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. All submissions become property of The Current Sauce. Information about our letters policy can be found on our Web site:

www.thecurrentsauce.com

Farewell, readers

This is the last issue of the spring 2009 semester. Look for more issues of The Current Sauce this summer and during the fall of 2009.

The Current Sauce staff wishes to thank its faculty adviser, Jarrett Reeves, as well as the rest of the journalism faculty and students for all of the support they provided this year.

Setting the bar for a good night

Andrew Bordelon
Guest Columnist



After drying off from a cleansing hot shower, I throw on a freshly ironed polo shirt and some jeans and prepare for another wild weekend night in Natchitoches.

Not everyone who lives here would have the same opinion that I do about how much fun this city can be, and many students prefer to visit their hometowns on the weekend.

I, however, have come to love the diverse social environments available in such a small town; for there is a place for everyone from honky-tonkers to club rats.

Some popular bars in Natchitoches are Strait Country, Yesterday's, The Pioneer Pub, Ron's House of Sports, Antoon's and The Student Body.

Strait Country is the largest club in town and draws some of the largest crowds. Its beer pong nights and concerts attract the most people, including some who do not even go there on a regular basis.

Although some have referred to it as "Strait Ghetto," the average crowd I have seen seems to be a mixture of students from blacks and whites to Greeks and non-Greeks.

There also seems to be a larger number of security guards there due to past fights that have occurred at the club. However, the variety of events and concerts at Strait Country is what draws its crowds and provides the wild club-like experience.

Although smaller, Yesterday's also has the nightclub setting. Like Strait Country, it has the occasional penny pitchers and tastefully potent tiki bowls. The crowd at this particular bar on an average weekend is mostly Greek students, and, unlike the other bars in the city, it is still providing a karaoke night.

One should be careful when handling the karaoke equipment, particularly the microphone, if he wishes to remain a participant or customer there, but that's another story.

For those who are interested in more of a sports bar setting, there is Ron's House of Sports. This is another bar that offers beer pong but less frequently than Strait Country.

The crowds here vary from different students and non-students, and, like Strait Country, it attracts more people, especially students, for its beer pong tournaments. Also, like the two previously mentioned bars, Ron's is not open every day of the week. The last two bars, however, are.

The Pioneer Pub is a local favorite because of its variety of 19 draft beers on tap and the food it serves. This is the only one of the five common bars that serves food as well as drinks.The Pub's crowd is a mixture of students and non-students both young and old, and the Thursday night band performances are always an attraction for more customers.

The last of the most common bars is Antoon's. Antoon's Bar is open every day, and its nightclub sidekick, The Student Body, opens on weekend nights.

Like some of the other bars, the average crowd is a mixture of students and non-students, many of the students being Greeks. Having a more honky-tonk atmosphere, the bar is a common hangout spot for many experienced pool players during the week.

As the weekend approaches and The Body opens, students and the hard working staff at Antoon's Riverfront Restaurant come experience bar-hopping without ever having to get into their car.

Although there are no beer pong tournaments, a power hour or two is always a good substitute. Although karaoke is no longer offered, an occasional appearance of a "Bobby Falcon" can be seen.

Many students will stick with one of these most of the time, but they go out on the weekend and stray every now and then.

Of course, the more one attends a certain bar the better he gets to know the crowd and bartenders. This is usually why people stick with one place, but it is always good to get out and experience something new sometimes. So, I say experience it all if you can handle it.

From beer pong tournaments and karaoke to honky-tonkin' and fancy imported beer, never leave out one of these five if you want to truly experience Natchitoches from the perspective of the bottle.

Be Frank: Silence is golden

Bethany Frank
Staff Columnist



Silence is golden.

If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all. It is when you say nothing at all that the world is able to hear your outcries. When you hold it in and keep it to yourself, it solves all the problems. Sometimes it is just better to find something nice to say, it entices more answers.

The silent majority appears to have the most to say, but lacks the ability to communicate.

People complain about being censored by higher institutions and establishments. But maybe, someone bigger is silencing the majority.

Throughout my journalism education, the First Amendment has been preached and engraved into my very being. We are taught that no one can silence the media, and we have a right to report the news and the facts.

But they were wrong.

There is something silencing our voice. Our right to free speech, guaranteed to us by the First Amendment, is being stifled.

There are multiple forces muting our conversation, but it is not simply "the man." It is you. It is the things you do that limit your own freedoms.

A frog can be put in a pot of boiling water and jump out. But if you put a frog in a pot of room-temperature water and set it to boil, the frog will cook to death. Try it.

We are the frogs cooking in boiling water because we are not smart enough to jump out and realize that something is wrong.

Slowly our rights are being limited. With each politically correct phrase, we are no longer able to voice our opinions or use vocabulary as it is properly defined, because someone somewhere found fault in it. Someone somewhere used it to hurt someone else.

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me—a phrase we were taught to say to our siblings or whomever chose to call us names or belittle us. But our words are stronger than any weapon.

It is the bloodshed overseas that is killing Americans. It is not the choices made by the government that are ending the American dream.

Our flag and statues lose meaning when we lack the courage to stand up for ourselves when someone tells us to be quiet. Our veins no longer run red, white and blue after we choose not to broach controversial subjects because of fear of saying the wrong thing.

It is the opinions and the thoughts of the silent majority that should change the world, but the silence cannot be heard.

The views of the minority are overpowering. The views of the few who have the courage to stand up when the world is pushing them down are the only voices that are heard.

But maybe that majority is ignorant to the means in which they can communicate.

It was while using the facilities in Kyser Hall that it became apparent that the student body does not understand the First Amendment rights. Free speech is not justification for vandalism, but yet students find the bathroom stalls to be the ideal place to voice their religious views, to seek advice for failing relationships and lost causes to explain the hypocrisy of classes and the higher institution.

If you have something to say, then say it. Find a proper public forum so your voice can be appropriately heard by the audience you desire. Submit a letter to the editor.

Get a radio show. Stand on a street corner. Start a blog. But do not commit vandalism (a crime, for those not aware) to ensure your voice is heard.

Find a voice to cease the silence. Become more than the silent majority. Let no man silence your voice, and don't silence it yourself.

Don't be quiet because you are too scared or too ignorant to practice your freedoms. Silence is not golden, and sometimes you need to say the not nice things on your mind.

Half the Battle: Back to the future

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor



The future is something I've never been able to deal with.

I try to plan for it, and most of the time, I can do all right, but that doesn't make it any less scary.

Take college for example. I'm going into my last full year of school starting in the fall.

How is this possible?

I don't give these things my best effort. My teachers can tell you I put in an average of 50-65 percent on any work, in class or out.

Still, though, I'm close to graduating.

I always thought I'd end up being a fifth year senior risking a sixth. I never thought I'd see the day where my graduation from college was within grasp.

Hell, I never thought high school graduation would be attainable.

So, this raises all sorts of questions. What am I doing after college? Who am I going to work for... for that matter, what work do I want to do?

And, the future raises a question that's even bigger than school.

It's the kind of question that usually presents itself on bended knee, if you know what I mean.

Marriage is the issue that drives me nuts.

Granted, I have had a lucky love life, for the most part, but marriage is still big.

Comedian Mike Birbiglia said it best when he said, "Marriage makes you do crazy things like kill people and get married."

As an aside, he also accurately described my ideal woman: "I want a woman that loves me for my money but doesn't understand math."

I fear marriage. I really do, and not because I'm not sure if I will ever get married, or because I don't know if I'll ever be lucky enough to find a wonderful girl who can somehow put up with me, but because marriage signifies something that I dread - the final step into adulthood.

I'm not afraid of being an adult or being responsible. I'm absolutely terrified of saying goodbye to my childhood. We had such good times together. But, now, it's slowly slipping away, never to return again until my midlife crisis.

THE CURRENT SAUCE

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April 22, 2009

Demons drop second conference series of season

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The first-place Texas State Bobcats blasted the Northwestern State baseball team for 30 runs and 37 hits in two games on Sunday. The series was shortened to just two games after rain delayed the games on Friday and Saturday.

The Bobcats run-ruled NSU in game one, belting a blistering 18 hits and 15 runs, nine of which came in the second inning. Demon ace Jimmy Heard lasted only 1 1/3 innings, giving up nine runs on seven hits, falling to 5-2 on the season.

Kane Holbrooks threw all seven innings for the Bobcats, giving up only six hits. He allowed three runs, while walking only one and striking out five.

Texas State hammered four home runs in the game, the first coming off the bat of Bobcat slugger Paul Goldschmidt, it was his 13th of the season.

After Goldschmidt gave the Bobcats a 1-0 lead, they came out firing in the second inning.

The first four batters reached base in the inning before leadoff hitter Tyler Sibley crushed a three-run bomb.

Later in the same inning, Keith Prestridge also smashed a three-run shot to extend their lead. The Bobcats pounded out nine runs on seven hits in the inning.

Texas State added four more runs in the next two innings, extending the lead to 14-0.

NSU put some runs on the board in the bottom of the fifth when senior third baseman Joe Urtuzuastegui knocked a one-out triple to right center field. He scored on a Beau Snodgrass ground out to third after Tyler Baisley drew a walk.

Baisley scored the second run of the inning when catcher Garret Vaughn cranked a two-out double to left center to cut the to lead 14-2. Each team would add another run, bringing the final score to 15-3, the second consecutive 15-3 loss for NSU. The first was at the hands of Louisiana Tech in Ruston.

The Demons' bats came alive in game two, but Texas State's didn't fall asleep either. The teams combined for 35 hits in game two, while driving in 25 runs.

The Demons jumped to an early 5-3 lead after four innings, thanks to three-run home run by senior first baseman Justin O'Neal.

Texas State then scorched the ball, scoring eight runs in the fifth inning. The first three batters reached base for Goldschmidt, who knocked in two runs with a single up the middle.

Prestridge blasted another three-run shot to give the Bobcats an 8-5 lead. The Bobcats added three more runs, giving them an 11-5 lead after five innings. Kyle Kubitza hit a two-run double in the sixth inning for the Bobcats to give TSU an eight-run cushion.

The Demons, however, started a small comeback, with catcher Miles Parsons knocking in a run with a bases-loaded single, followed by Dan Meyer's two-run double.

Pinch hitter Eric DeBlanc then hit a sacrifice fly to score Parsons for the final run of the inning.

The rally came up short, as NSU dropped game two 15-10, falling to 10-9 in conference play.

Before the shortened Texas State series, the Demons traveled to San Antonio to battle the two-time defending Southland Conference champion, the University of Texas at San Antonio.

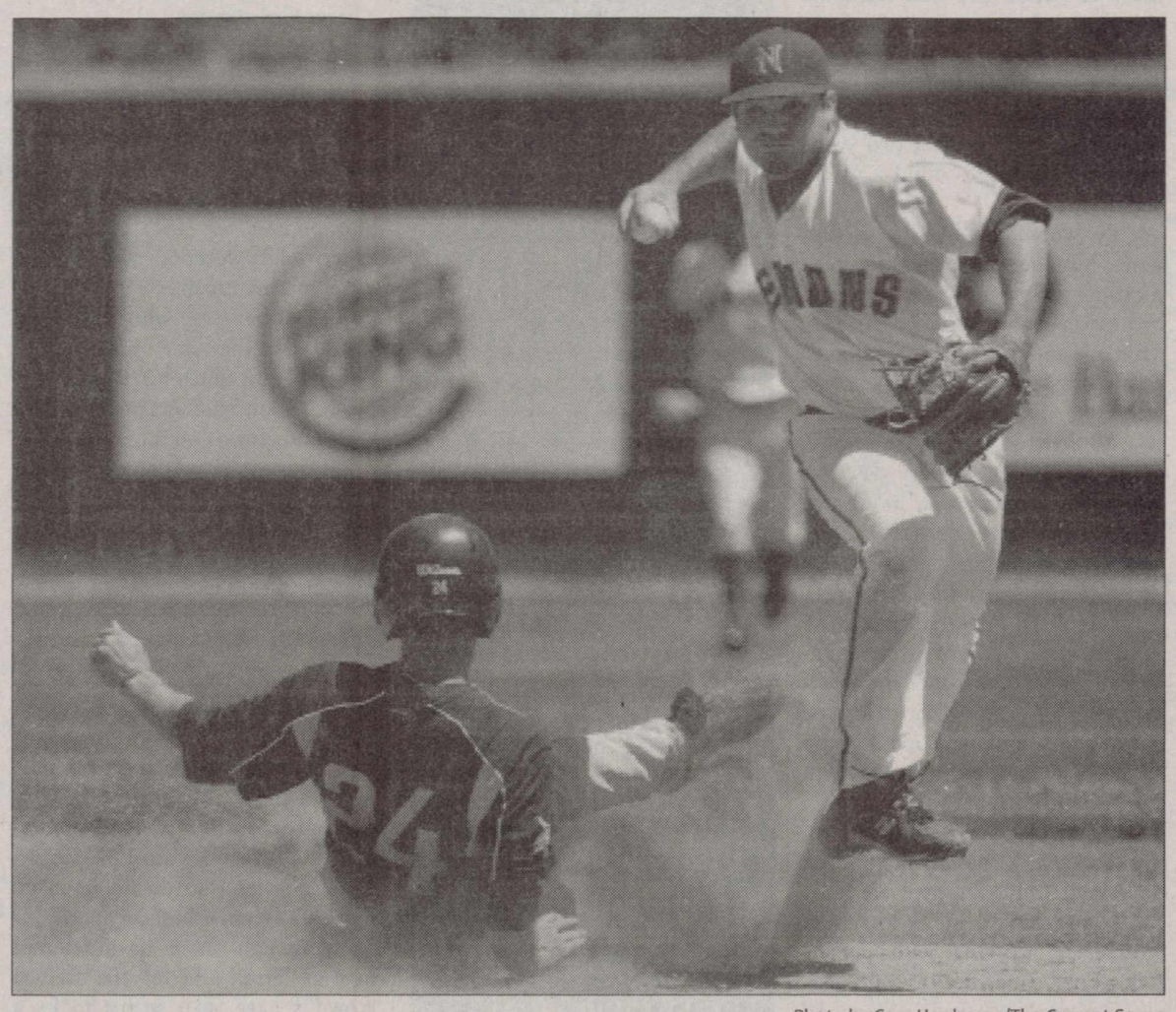


Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

Shortstop Trent Grondin turns a double play Sunday in a doubleheader against Texas State.

NSU dropped game one of the three-game series 7-4. Shortstop Trent Grondin went 3 for 5 with an RBI to lead the Demons. Jordan Nipp and Justin O'Neal each finished 1 for 4, both knocking in a run.

Games two and three, however, took extra innings to determine the winner, with NSU taking both games. In Saturday's game, the Demons got six innings from Jimmy Heard, who gave up only three runs on six hits, striking out seven. Second baseman Chase Lyles led the Demons' offense, knocking in four runs, going 2 for 5, powered by a three-run double.

NSU went into the ninth inning trailing by one, but Lyles doubled again, scoring Grondin to tie the game at eight. NSU shut out the Roadrunners in the ninth to force the extra frame, and NSU took advantage of the extra opportunity.

Parsons reached base with a one-out walk, then advanced to third on a fielding error.

Trent Grondin then reached on a fielder's choice to the shortstop, scoring Parsons. That was all the Demons needed.

Freshman pitcher Chad Sheppard, who was recently named to the National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association Stopper of the Year watch list, pitched the last two innings in relief to pick up the win. Sheppard improves to 3-0 on the year.

The Demons and Roadrunners were all knotted up at four going into extra frames in Sunday's rubber match. NSU exploded for five runs in the 10th led by Joe Urtuzuastegui who finished 2 for 4 with six RBI in the game.

Ryan Zimmerman pitched eight innings, allowing 10 hits, but gave up only two runs. Sheppard stepped in and pitched the ninth and 10th innings, picking up his fourth win of the season.

With a 10-9 conference mark, NSU sits in fifth place, 4 1/2 games behind Texas State for the conference lead.

NSU traveled north on Interstate 49 to battle in-state rival Centenary College, stealing a 10-6 road victory. The Demons snapped a three-game losing streak with the win.

Eight Demons drove in runs, powered by Justin O'Neal, who was the only Demon with a multi-RBI game. Urtuzuastegui led NSU with three hits in the contest, going 3 for 5 on the night, and driving in one run.

The Demons stay in action tonight, traveling to Monroe to take on the Warhawks, continuing non-conference play. Conference continues this weekend as NSU goes to Beaumont, Texas, to battle Lamar University.



Photo by Gary Hardamon/The Current Sauce

The Lady Demon softball team played its final home games at the Demon Diamond. From left to right: Seniors Brittany Card, Amanda Jameson and Cary Bruno.

Lady Demon seniors lose final home games

Andy Bullard
Sports Co-Editor

Spring break started out well for the Lady Demons with a 3-1 victory over Nicholls University but then turned into a break to forget after finishing it on a seven-game losing streak.

Stormi Stech blasted a two-run home run, her first of the season, in the top of the seventh inning to lead the Lady Demons to a 3-1 win over the Lady Colonels of Nicholls.

"I saw the placement of the ball and the way Stormi was hustling and knew we had a shot to win that game," infielder Amanda Jameson said. "Stormi really stepped up with a clutch hit when we needed it most."

Stech's home run was one of only four hits for the Lady Demons. Cary Bruno, Randi Stuard and Tiffany Ward had the other three hits.

The third RBI came from Samantha Roberts as she sacrificed Cary Bruno.

Starting pitcher Sara Dornelas got her first win of the season as she pitched a complete game.

Dornelas gave up six hits along with only one earned run. Her record is now 1-7 on the season.

The rest of the series against Nicholls wasn't as fortunate as the first game. Nicholls took the second and third games by the scores of 3-2 and 5-2.

The second game took 10 innings to finish, three more than the normal, and there was a rise in hits for the Lady Demons from four to seven.

Leslie Johnson and Roberts had two hits apiece, along with both RBIs for NSU. Stech, Stuard, and Taywanee Edmonds added the other three hits.

Starting pitcher Kelee Grimes pitched nine and one third innings, giving up 10 hits and three runs, only two of which were earned.

The third and final game against Nicholls ended with the final score of 5-2.

Bruno and Stuard accounted for all the offense the Lady Demons mustered. Both had two hits and scored a run, with Stuard having the lone RBI.

Both Dornelas and Grimes pitched in the game giving up a combined seven hits, five runs, two of which were earned, and striking out three.

The Lady Demons then traveled to Troy, Ala., to take on the University of Troy. The outcome for the two game series resulted in two losses.

The first game NSU got run-ruled and lost by a score of 9-1 in five innings.

The Lady Demons only managed two hits by Amanda Jameson and Cassy Poncik.

The lone RBI came from second basemen Ainsley Pellerin.

The second game against Troy was much closer with Lady Trojans barely edging NSU by the score of 10-9.

The nine runs for the Lady Demons were the most runs scored in a single game all season.

Tiffany Ward and Samantha Roberts each had two RBIs and both scored a run. Stech, Bruno and Stuard each scored two runs.

With the offense finally showing up, the pitching let the Lady Demons down.

Grimes gave up 10 runs, all of which were earned on 15 hits.

The final home series against Texas State, saw the end of three Lady Demons' Career – Cary Bruno, Brittany Card and Amanda Jameson. Unfortunately, their careers ended with the Lady Demons not scoring a single run in any of the three games.

NSU lost 8-0, 3-0 and 9-0. In the entire series NSU managed 10 total hits.

The Lady Demons' record is now at 5-38 overall and 3-23 in Southland Conference play.

Track team sprints home with wins in meets

Hill, Griffin improve personal bests, conference rankings

Fletcher Jonson
Sports Co-Editor

The Northwestern State track team sprinted home with four wins at the Seminole Invitational track and field meet hosted by Florida State University, led by hurdler Mike Hill. He cut .04 seconds off of his nationally-ranked time in the 110-meter hurdles, improving to 14.01 in the event.

That could potentially improve his national ranking.

Hill's teammate P.J. Bennett ran the same event in 14.49, marking a season and personal best.

Bennett took third in the 110-meter hurdles.

DeJon Griffin took first place in the hammer throw, with a toss of 165-9, at least 10 feet ahead of everyone else in the field.

Griffin also earned third in the discus, hurling it 129-1.

The scorching 4x100 relay team won the event yet again, clocking a time of 41.06, a season best for the team of Michael Batts, Jamie Emery, Jeremy Thomas and Mike Green.

The women's 4x400 team also took the top place, running a season best 3:46.63, nearly two seconds faster than their previous best.

Samantha Flowers, Phyllis Iheanacho, Andrea Warren and Carmen Wallace now own the second-best time in the Southland Conference.

In other field events, Corey Jones and Buck Thompson took second and third, respectively, in the discus. Jones recorded a toss of 162-11, with Thompson just behind at 158-6.

Two duo was also 2-3 in the shot put, with Jones finishing just three feet ahead of the freshman.

Mike Green ran a 21.35 in the men's 200, just 0.01 off the conference lead. Green finished fourth overall at the meet, second among collegians.

More improvements were made in Baton Rouge last weekend at the LSU Alumni Gold track and field meet. Mike Hill improved his time in the 110-meter hurdles, knocking it down to 13.95, taking third place.

P.J. Bennett also improved his season best with a time of 14.48. NSU gathered five third-place finishes, but did not send Cody Fillinich, who ranks fifth nationally in the javelin throw, or Mike Green to compete in individual competition.

Griffin and Jones also placed third in the hammer throw and men's shot put, throwing 175-10 and 55-10 1/4, respectively.

Jones' throw notched a season best, and the third-best mark in the conference.

NSU continues action this weekend, as they host the NSU Invitational Saturday at the Walter Ledet Track Complex.

Lady Demon tennis earns 4th spot in tournament

Sophomore Lange garners SLC tennis player of the week honors

Joe Cunningham
Opinions Editor

Two wins during the break landed the NSU Lady Demons tennis team in the upper echelon of the Southland Conference.

The Lady Demons are now tied for third in the SLC after defeating Stephen F. Austin University 6-1 and Sam Houston State University 5-2.

Coach Patric DuBois is proud of his players, and thinks they are peaking at exactly the right moment.

"We're doing things right on the court, and we're clicking as a whole," DuBois said, adding that those conditions are what "makes it best for our talent to come out."

DuBois is not making any special changes to the team. "We really work on doing things right on the tennis court."

Kathrin Lange and Bianca Schulz, both sophomores at NSU, won their singles and doubles games at both matches.

Lange defeated SFA senior Gabriela Gadeva 6-1 and 6-3.

She followed up the following day by narrowly beating Sam Houston senior Peta Taylor 6-7, 7-6, and 1-0.

Schulz took on SFA sophomore Sanjana Kapur and came out on top, winning 6-0 and 6-1.

A day later, she would take on Patricia Manzur, a senior at Sam Houston, winning 6-4 and 6-4.

Lange and Schulz also took on SFA's Gadeva and Titiana Smolnikov in a doubles competition, winning 8-5.

Afterward, they took on Sam Houston's Manzur and Giorgia Pozzan, winning 8-3.

Schulz is confident that the team is ready for the conference tournament.

"We are healthy, we're in good shape, and we've had some time and we're ready," Schulz said.

Agreeing with her coach, Lange believes the team is at its peak going into the SLC tournament.

"We all played well this week," Lange said, confident that the streak will continue.

The Lady Demons are tied for third in the SLC and are the No. 4 seed in the tournament, and they will take on the No. 5 seed this Friday in the first round.